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COMPLETED

DAILY REPORT

ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

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FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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KUWAIT

AMIR RECEIVES OFFICIALS WITH MESSAGE FROM SIAD BARRE

LD271122Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] This morning the amir received the minister of education, who introduced to him the Somali minister of higher education and culture and the commander of popular forces. The amir's office later said that the amir received a message from the Somali president "concerning the latest developments in the Horn of Africa.

SAUDI ARABIA

U.S., ATHERTON SHOULD PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL

LD251638Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

["What Is Behind the News"--prepared by 'Abd ar-Rahman 'ABD al-'Aziz al-Hazza and presented by Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Sha'lan]

[Text] Alfred Atherton, U.S. assistant secretary of state, these days has committed himself to carry out a shuttle tour between occupied Jerusalem and a number of Arab capitals in an attempt to bring the views of Arab and Zionist officials closer together and ultimately to reach a Middle East solution satisfactory to all parties. This step by the American Government can actually contribute to the solution of the question. However, this is subject to the ability of the United States to overcome a number of difficulties blocking the road to a solution and which the Israeli enemy has undertaken to place on it in order to gain more time in its favor to supply its forces with sophisticated modern weapons which are ravaging the defenseless citizens in occupied Palestine and in various other places.

The difficulties placed by the Israeli enemy and which the United States should remove in order to achieve a settlement can be summarized as follows:

1. Israel has not recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization as a representative of the Palestinian people. This representation is considered legitimate and has been internationally recognized at many conferences and meetings in various parts of the world. Moreover the Palestinians, the central point of the main issue, have accepted this organization as their representative and as their spokesman in all occasions. This acceptance by all Palestinians alone is enough to proclaim the legitimacy of the PLO's representation of the Palestinians. The Israeli enemy by not recognizing the PLO is striving to destroy the sons of the Palestinian people by assimilating them into other nationalities and by not having their own base from which to branch in all directions and declare to world public opinion what ought to be done to restore the Palestinians' rights in full.

2. Israel insists on going ahead in its settlements policy. Every day it is building a new settlement or tries to extend the area of a previously built settlements. Moreover, it considers that any possible agreement on any of the fronts must include these settlements remaining under Israeli sovereignty. This policy by the Israeli enemy is totally rejected and no mentality or logic can accept it. Everyone knows that those settlements have illegally been built on Arab land occupied by force. Moreover, Israel in building them seeks to cement its position in the occupied Arab territories and has claimed that building them is vital to the defense of the so-called Israeli security.

It is not enough for the Israeli enemy that its first ally, the United States, has demanded an end to its serious crime of establishing these settlements, and that the Israeli Cabinet was split while debating this question and that its meeting last week ended without reaching a result because of the sharp differences that occurred among cabinet members who supported and opposed the settlements policy. Some members have realized the ugliest results that these settlements could produce in the near and distant future.

3. Among the obstacles that Israel is placing in the way of a solution is its refusal to permit the establishment of a Palestinian state of an independent entity in the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River. The Zionist officials have claimed that this state would constitute a serious danger to the so-called security of Israel, and that this state will be eyeing the ultimate annihilation of the Israelis sooner or later. By such words they are trying to ignore a concrete fact; namely, that such a state, if established, would need scores of years to be able to stand on its feet. Also, in no way is it possible to draw comparisons between this nascent state, if established, and Israel from the military angle. The latter owns a huge arsenal of weapons which could not be obtained overnight. The purpose of demanding the establishment of a Palestinian state is to give the Palestinian citizen anywhere all rights enjoyed by other people who belong to a state which exists and has a position among countries of the world, subsequently making him feel that he is not a refugee or homeless but a Palestinian citizen who belongs to a state which has sovereignty and independence enjoying all rights and privileges enjoyed by all countries of the world in international gatherings and conferences. This is a right of every citizen which cannot be denied or its realization obstructed.

4. The Zionist entity is blocking the settlement of the Middle East question by its refusal to withdraw from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 on all fronts. The position of the law from this angle is clear and frank; namely, that the territories of others cannot be captured by force whatever the circumstances and ambiguities. Land must be returned to its owners as basic condition for any peace or agreement. Israel's leaders boast and are saying that these territories are liberated territories and cannot be returned in any way. They also are saying that they form a protective shield to maintain the so-called Israeli security.

The Israeli feeling of insecurity confirms that they are aggressive people. The aggressor is always the one who thinks of ways to provide himself with sufficient protection, whatever the means. It is possible that the leaders of Zion have forgotten or are pretending to forget that those territories occupied in 1967 belong to Arab sovereign countries and they will never accept disgrace and humiliation. If all peaceful means prove futile in restoring these territories to their owners, then the reaction will be harsher and fiercer than imagined by Israel. Arab dignity cannot be degraded even if the Arabs lose all they possess.

Once more we go back to remind Alfred Atherton, U.S. assistant secretary of state, that the matters in dispute between the Arabs and Israel are fundamental and difficult matters and are not trivial ones as some imagine. It is not possible at present to attempt to bring the viewpoints closer, as this could only be achieved if the differences were over minor issues on which any side could show more flexibility.

To save time and to spare the United States energy the United States should strenuously try at the start to remove the aforementioned difficulties even if it is compelled to exercise more pressure, of which it is capable.

Let those who are near and far know that the entire Arab nation cannot accept a solution for the Middle East question which will not include complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the inevitable granting to this people their right to self-determination and the establishment of their own state on their occupied land and to have all the qualities and status enjoyed by any state.

ISRAEL CONSIDERED UNLIKELY TO CHANGE SETTLEMENT POLICY

LD271304Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The decision adopted by the Israeli enemy yesterday affirming its intention not to change its policy on settlements in the occupied Arab territories came as no surprise to anyone. The whole world, including those the Zionist information media call Israel's friends, has become fully convinced that Israel does not really want peace and that a cabinet headed by a veteran terrorist like Menahem Begin can under no circumstances adopt acceptable and logical decisions. By the logic of things, these decisions are bound to be extremist and abnormal, just like Begin's mentality.

However, what draws attention to this decision is its timing. It was issued at a time when Alfred Atherton, U.S. assistant secretary of state, arrived in occupied Jerusalem from Cairo carrying the Egyptian proposals on the declaration of principles which, among other things, call for Israel's commitment to the principle of withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. Furthermore, this decision was taken only a few days following the denunciation by the Carter administration of the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, describing them as illegal and as an obstacle in the way of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and also following the British Government's denunciation of Begin's policy on the establishment of settlements.

British Foreign Secretary David Owen has met with Israeli enemy Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and discussed with him the situation in the Middle East and Jordan's possible joining of the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks. In Amman Prime Minister Mudar Badran said his country might join the direct talks between Egypt and Israel if Israel committed itself publicly to complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and to recognition of legitimate rights of Palestine Arab people. The Zionist enemy does not seem inclined to contemplate responding to these conditions or even to some of them.

SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN HORN OF AFRICA CONDEMNED

LD242050Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] It has been clearly established that the aim of the flagrant Soviet military intervention in the Horn of Africa is to achieve the ambitions and designs inherent in its return once more to the African Continent, after having been expelled from more than one position, and then using Ethiopia as a new starting point for its threats and plots against the states of the region. There is no doubt that the danger arising from the presence of communism in the Horn of Africa is not confined to the states of the African Continent but goes beyond that.

In a statement published by both AR-RIYAD and AL-JAZIRAH yesterday, Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri revealed that communist interference in the Horn of Africa will definitely lead to the widening of the sphere of conflict and that this in turn will lead to instability in the region.

DEFENSE MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT ON MILITARY INDUSTRIES

NC2413417Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 February--His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, Saudi minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, has stated that the Arab military industries organization has adopted a strategy against threats to or attacks on its plants in time of crisis by spreading these plants among the member states. In a statement published by the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today, Prince Sultan said that as part of this strategy a study is now underway aimed at launching military industrial projects in Qatar and the UAE, in addition to the electronics plant which, it has been decided, will be built in Saudi Arabia, and the four plants that already exist in the Arab Republic of Egypt and the ones under construction there.

The Saudi defense minister ruled out the possibility that Arab differences at present or in the future may affect the activities of the organization. He emphasized that the organization is a nonpolitical industrial, technical and economic organization seeking to break the arms production monopoly and to build an Arab military-industrial base capable of meeting the armament needs of the member states.

Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said that the Arab military industries organization welcomes the membership of any other state on the basis of the founding regulations. He stressed the importance of cooperation between the gulf states and the Arabian Peninsula to insure their security and spare them the dangers of local and international disputes. The way to ward off these dangers, he said, is to promote understanding and complete coordination.

On the relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the UAE, his highness said: "If I were to overlook formalities I would say that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the UAE are one state."

OMANI DELEGATION MEETS WITH DEFENSE MINISTER

LD271600Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] Defense Minister His Royal Highness Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received the Omani delegation now visiting the kingdom at noon today. The delegation is led by Mufti of the Sultanate of Oman Shaykh Ahmad al-Khalili.

Amir Sultan affirmed during the meeting with the Omani delegation that every responsible official should get rid of the enemies of Islam and not offer any loyalty to them because they pose a threat to us and to our religion. We fight the idea of religion without a state, he said, because separating religion from the state is an idea foreign to Islam and Moslem.

UAE

UAE JOINS DEFENSE, ECONOMIC COOPERATION TREATY

NC272205Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1940 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 February--UAE Ambassador in Cairo Sayf 'Ali al-Jardan today lodged with the Arab League the instruments of his country's accession to the treaty of joint defense and economic cooperation among the league's member states. By doing so the UAE becomes the 19th state to lodge its instruments of accession to this treaty. So far only three Arab states have not yet joined the treaty. They are the Sultanate of Oman, Mauritania and (?Djibouti).

YEMEN--PDRY

ADEN NEWS AGENCY ON WESTERN AIMS IN RED SEA, HORN

LD241752Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] The ADEN NEWS AGENCY [ANA] says that imperialist circles and their information media, which are forever talking about Red Sea security and the preservation of their interests in the region, have now resorted to lying about Democratic Yemen and other progressive forces and to distorting the nature of our friendship with the socialist countries and democratic forces of the world, foremost of which is the friendly USSR.

In a political commentary issued today, ANA says that the policy of the imperialists and their agents in the region is to increase tension and to obstruct fruitful efforts and mutual respect for national sovereignty in the service of the region's stability and social development. ANA affirms that the stand of Democratic Yemen is that our vital region should be insulated from the dangers of war and tension. This can be achieved only when the policies of aggression and war are abandoned and when their causes are removed. Above all, the imperialist military bases must be liquidated and their military experts sent packing. There must also be the creation of an atmosphere conducive to an insuring the supremacy of the policy of coexistence; mutual cooperation on an equal footing; the creation of the conditions necessary for the peoples of the region to gain stability and have time to devote to social construction.

The agency affirms that Democratic Yemen will choose no other line. The agency exposed the current moves of U.S., Iranian and Egyptian naval units in the region of the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.

All these moves, the agency said, are aimed at restoring the political and military interests of imperialism and at striking at the liberated regimes, which reject trusteeship and subservience. The agency referred to U.S. arms deals and the huge arms consignments the United States is sending to Iran and the Zionist entity, saying that all this was directed at strengthening its military bases and increasing the number of its military experts in the region. Concluding its statement, ANA called for the mustering of all the honest nationalist and progressive forces aspiring to stability and peaceful coexistence and cooperation.

UPONF SECRETARY GENERAL IN THAMUD PROVINCE

LD272112Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the United Political Organization--National Front Central Committee, has called on members and candidate members of the party to arm themselves with the spirit of vigilance and watchfulness to defend the revolution and the homeland and the gains of the masses. He said this during the meeting of the Politburo committee, chaired by brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, with members and candidate members yesterday afternoon in the province of Thamud, where the analytical document was presented and discussed.

In response to questions from members on subjects contained in the document, the brother secretary general emphasized the importance of intensifying political work among members of the armed forces and of further developing political work in the military establishments. Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il expressed during the meeting the interest of the organization and the revolutionary government in Thamud Province and in the improvement of the living standards of the masses of the province in different fields.

YEMEN--YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT ON ARAB SUMMIT

LD250025Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] San'a', 24 February--YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj said that his country supports the efforts being made by King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri to establish peace and stability in the Horn of Africa.

In a statement broadcast by San'a' radio tonight, Al-Asnaj said his country supports the collective efforts being made by the countries of the Arabian Peninsula and the gulf to revive the spirit of Arab solidarity and prepare the ground for an Arab summit conference that would deal with all the problems and dangers threatening the present and future of many Arab countries. Al-Asnaj said his country denounces Israel's intransigent attitude toward the attempts to achieve a just settlement for the Palestinian problem.

ASSEMBLY ELECTS COMMAND COUNCIL VICE CHAIRMAN AS SPEAKER

JN251240Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 25 Feb 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 25 February--Judge 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arshi, YAR Command Council vice chairman, has been elected speaker of the Constituent People's Assembly. This took place today at a closed session of the Constituent Assembly devoted to electing a speaker. The assembly will hold another session this evening to elect a deputy speaker.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEETS TO DISCUSS CYPRUS EVENTS

Mar'i Speech

NC271333Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Speech by People's Republic Speaker Sayyid Mar'i' at 27 February session of the People's Assembly--recorded]

[Excerpt] Brothers and sisters, last week we lived through sad days which crushed us with pain as wire dispatches carried a report which shocked all of Egypt and the entire world. That report was on the martyrdom of one of Egypt's leaders, Yusuf as-Siba'i. The hand of treachery, evil and aggression reached him while he was performing an honorable duty and a noble task for the sake of the solidarity of the peoples of Asia and Africa. He devoted all his life to defending the causes of these peoples and was tragically killed while defending them.

Brothers and sisters, the Cyprus Government--which failed to provide protection to the members of the conference, which led to the assassination of Yusuf as-Siba'i--also failed to punish the crime. Despite all this, the Cyprus Government attacked the Egyptian commando force which went to help it carry out its primary task of confronting terrorism, which Egypt and the entire world community are fighting.

Egypt's aim in sending the force was not to encroach on the sovereignty of that state, which Egypt considered a friendly state, which was supposed to cooperate with the Egyptian commando force in combating this aggression. Instead of that, the Cyprus Government opened fire on the Egyptian force, meanly and treacherously killing 15 of the elite sons of Egypt. Others were also wounded by the soldiers of the Government of Cyprus--whose national causes Egypt has defended.

Salim Speech

NC271610Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Speech by Prime Minister Mamduh Salim at the People's Assembly on 27 February--recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate, Mr Speaker of the People's Assembly, brother and sister members of the honorable assembly: There is no doubt that everyone in Egypt--leadership and people, People's Assembly and government, and every old man, woman, young man and child--has spent the past few days, united by our national feelings, following up the events of the ugly crime which the hands of abominable terrorism and those behind it committed against the martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i in Cyprus and the subsequent events of treachery and treason which the Cyprus authorities have committed against the Egyptian shock force. The force went to Cyprus to carry out the humanitarian mission of saving the hostages of various nationalities who were seized by the murderers and of preventing the murderers from getting away with their crime. The shock force went to Cyprus to do this for the sake of justice, to preserve the honor and dignity of Egypt and to share in saving the honor of the Cyprus people themselves and the honor of the millions of African and Asian peoples, whose solidarity organization was attacked by terrorism. In doing so, Egypt was representing the conscience of the world and was working within the framework of international solidarity to resist international terrorism.

Our people's sorrow and anger is all the greater because this innocent Egyptian blood was shed as a result of despicable instigation and plotting and at the hands of those for whom this precious blood has been shed for over a quarter of century of our contemporary history in defense of their causes and to regain their usurped territory. In doing this Egypt has sacrificed 100,000 martyrs of the best of its sons and all its assets and livelihood, for which every worker, peasant and intellectual has worked. Such a burden has rarely been shouldered by any people in ancient or modern history. Our people's sorrow and anger is all the greater because a few Arab rulers have joined hands in plotting against them.

In view of the signs of Egyptian success in favor of peace and the Arab nation and in view of the threat to the rejectionist states that an end is going to be put to the Middle East problem, on which they have built their narrow ambitions and aims, this front of rejectionist states began contemplating adopting any measure to try to stop this honorable and triumphant current in an attempt to terrorize Egypt, harm its dignity, isolate it and deal a blow to the peace efforts to divert world attention from it. Consequently they thought up the Cyprus crime and began planning for it.

Mr Speaker, brother and sister members of the honorable assembly, it is necessary for me to make this review so that we can all know the wider framework and true aims of the plot and crime to deal a blow to Egypt's efforts to establish peace, to try to impose a mandate on it and to try to terrorize and isolate it.

Let us now move on to acquaint your honorable assembly with the aspects of this despicable plan and the preparations and implementation of the crime itself and the distribution of roles among the instigators and the murderers. The instigators' plan for the crime lies in the choice of their victim, represented in a distinguished Egyptian personality who had influence with the Egyptians, the Arabs and the world. This personality was one of the most lustrous sons of Egypt and Arabism, who had international influence as the secretary general of AAPSO. He is our great martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i.

In observance of his responsibility toward the conference martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i proposed several capitals where the conference could be held. These included Moscow, Berlin, Baghdad and Cairo. The conference was originally scheduled to be held in Baghdad. However, the Soviet Union insisted on holding the conference in Cyprus. Finally, martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i consented in order to preserve the unity of the organization, although he was not convinced that Cyprus was suitable from the security point of view.

The assistant secretary general of the AAPSO, Kamal Baha' ad-Din, traveled to the capital of Cyprus, Nicosia, a few days before the conference was due to open. He contacted the Cyprus authorities to insure that they would take the necessary security measures. They assured him that they would take sufficient security measures to protect the conference and its members from any danger. There were similar contacts between the Egyptian Embassy in Cyprus and the Cyprus authorities, and the embassy received the same assurances. The Cyprus authorities were asked to shoulder their full responsibilities not only with regard to the nature of holding such a big conference on its territory but in view of the potential dangers specifically pointed out during official contacts.

Despite all this the crime took place at the hands of two terrorists. It was proven that the security measures were virtually nonexistent to an unusual and suspicious degree. All the Cyprus authorities submitted to these two terrorists, who detained the members of the conference and began dividing them into groups. The Cyprus authorities made no attempt to detain them, obstruct them or take any other measure.

At this point an incident took place which deserves some thought. During the conference and the murdering of martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i, the Syrian military attache in Nicosia entered the conference hall, and the two murderers then let him go. This is something strange. The Syrian military attache told the Cyprus authorities that the two murderers were from Eritrea.

When the first dispatch on the assassination of martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i arrived--and it was from the INA--I tried personally to contact Cyprus President Kiprianou. He was on a plane on his way back to Cyprus from Athens. I spoke to the acting president, who conveyed his condolences to me on the death of the martyr. He also told me that the two murderers were from Eritrea. When I inquired about the source of this report, he told me that it came from the Syrian military attache.

It became clear later on from the testimony of the Somali representative in AAPSO--who is a former health minister in the Somali Government, who was also detained before being released by the two murderers--that the Syrian military attache had entered the hall and heard the murderers admit that they were Palestinians and that they had carried out their mission successfully. It is certain, therefore, that the Syrian military attache intentionally concealed what he had heard and invented another nationality for the two murderers, contrary to what he heard from them.

When I contacted the acting Cyprus president by telephone, I asked him to grant permission for an Egyptian plane to go to Cyprus carrying the information and culture minister and a press delegation to bring back the body of martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i and the other members of the Egyptian delegation to the conference, and this was done.

The Cyprus authorities clearly wanted to get rid of the two murdering terrorists and their hostages quickly so it could not be said that these authorities had actually foiled the attempt of the two murderers to leave the country and escape punishment.

In distributing blame for the crime, we find another aspect. The Cyprus authorities sent a plane to Beirut in an attempt to bring some of the leaders of the Palestinian revolution to help persuade the criminals to surrender, but the plane returned without any of them, because they had refused to make any contribution, as if this matter did not affect the Palestinian issue at all.

During all this time, and in view of the Cyprus authorities' relinquishment of their responsibilities and since it was their clear intention to let the criminals go, our Egyptian services prepared to free the hostages and to prevent the criminals from escaping.

Mr Speaker, brother and sister members of the assembly, there is no doubt about that it is in the interest of all of us to shed light on the relations between Egypt and Cyprus and between Egypt and the Palestinian issue and the Palestinians on the basis of the circumstances, facts and results of the Cyprus events.

1. As for Cyprus, Egypt has exerted every effort to help it secure and defend its independence. The cooperation with the former great president of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios, is an example of Egyptian-Cypriot cooperation. Egypt served as a refuge for the late Cypriot president in the difficult times when he was forced to stay out of Cyprus. Egypt had hopes that Egyptian-Cypriot relations would remain one of the important bases of stability in the eastern Mediterranean. This friendship was one of the basic motives for Egypt's attempt to cooperate with Cyprus to help it fulfill its responsibilities and preserve its dignity.

2. It would be inconceivable that Egypt, which helped Cyprus achieve the basic pillar of sovereignty by maintaining its independence, would harm Cyprus sovereignty, particularly since Egypt's main policy in its international relations and in the solution of the Middle East problem is to maintain the sovereignty of all countries in the region. This policy has become Egypt's principal aim and strategy.

3. In the recent events, Egypt was not dealing with Cyprus within the limits of bilateral relations but also within the framework of international solidarity and cooperation vis-a-vis terrorism, and considering that there were many precedents in contemporary world events in which such cooperation had proved successful.

4. The Egyptian view on the handling of these events does not coincide with Cyprus view. Egypt does not agree that the release of the hostages should have been the quid pro quo for the escape of the criminals. This would mean helping them to achieve their aims. In the Cyprus events, the situation did not involve demands by the terrorists. There was a crime and bloodshed. This constituted a specific responsibility for the Cyprus authorities.

5. First there was the failure to provide security for the conference and then the failure to take measures to detain the criminals, followed by facilitating the escape of the criminals. This was followed by Cypriot enragement and excitement when the Cyprus authorities became convinced that Egypt had foiled the plan for the escape of the criminals. And then came the attack, which was not the only means to deal with the situation, even within the limits of the Cypriot claims. All of this presents an overall picture of abnormal and suspect conditions for which Cyprus must give acceptable explanations to Egypt and to world public opinion and to international solidarity against terrorism.

6. The dignity of the Asian and African peoples represented in their organization cannot be overlooked by Cyprus when coming to deal with these conditions, and internationally Cyprus is not free to do this.

7. Egypt has every right to demand the extradition of the criminals as the country affected by this bloodshed and because it is important to expose the aspects of the instigation and to expose the instigators before the entire world.

8. In view of this treachery and recklessness on the part of the Cyprus authorities and their relinquishment of their responsibilities, the Egyptian Government, which rightly expresses the feelings and demands of the Egyptian people, has taken the necessary measure by breaking off relations with Cyprus and withdrawing its recognition of it. This represents a reconstitution of Egyptian-Cypriot relations on the basis of the realities of the Cyprus position.

With regard to Egyptian-Palestinian relations, Egypt's position can be summed up as follows:

1. Egypt's struggle for the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people constitutes a strategic position, and Egypt will not permit anyone in the region or outside it to capitalize on any temporary situation in order to affect the need for liberating Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. This is a historic and pan-Arab position which will be maintained in the future.

2. Those who claim to be the leaders of the Palestinian people, by the intensification of their attacks on Egypt, have completely sold themselves out to the rejectionist front. They speak as if they justify the shedding of Egyptian blood. They must bear the consequences of their position. Egypt will treat them on this basis.

3. Egypt can never forget the Palestinian people who live in the Israeli occupation areas. They are the ones who are actually suffering from the power of this occupation. During President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and during the visits of their delegations to Egypt, they have expressed support for the Egyptian line in working for their liberation from the occupation. Egypt will not agree to letting them be the victims of plots and mishandling by those who benefit and trade on their behalf.

4. With regard to the relationship with the Palestinian nationals residing in Egypt, the government will submit to your honorable assembly measures which will put this relationship in its normal perspective and will give the Palestinians equal treatment with the rest of the citizens of the fraternal Arab states and will review this relationship in terms of the national and pan-Arab rights of the Egyptians. [applause and commotion]

Within this framework, Egypt will remain the big sister of all the Arabs within the limits of mutual respect.

Mr Speaker, brother and sister members of the assembly, once again we want to assert to the world and to all the peace- and justice-loving peoples that Egypt has chosen its civilized line in strengthening all the moves to establish peace in this area. No one will be able to depart from this line as long as he insists on justice and on all the Arab rights endorsed by the Arab summit conferences.

Egypt will not accept anyone's imposing a mandate on it under any slogan that distorts the meaning of Arab solidarity.

Egypt, which had taken the war decision, is the one most qualified to lead the moves toward peace. Those who have fought and triumphed are the ones in ancient and modern history who have found themselves at the head of the peace negotiations.

Egypt will not allow anyone to terrorize it or threaten it. It will not allow any attack on any Egyptian anywhere to go unpunished. This is a firm and final position.

By virture of its position as the heart of the Arab nation, Egypt, God willing, will achieve the restoration of the legitimate Arab rights and the usurped Arab territory and the establishment of peace based on justice, supported by the entire world. May God protect and guide Egypt under the leadership of its great president, Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. Peace and God's blessings be upon you.

Al-Jamasi Report

NC271455Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1334 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Report delivered by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi at the People's Assembly on 27 February--recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful and the Compassionate, Mr Speaker, brother and sister members of the assembly: There is no doubt that the Egyptian people have since 18 February been watching the events beginning with the attack by two terrorists on the departed martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i in Nicosia, Cyprus, followed by their taking a number of hostages including four Egyptians, how the Cyprus authorities placed a Cyprus plane at the disposal of the terrorists to take them anywhere they wanted, and the dispatch of the Egyptian shock force by air to Cyprus on 19 February to help the Cyprus authorities rescue the hostages and arrest the terrorists.

What intensified the anger of the Egyptians was the fact that the late Yusuf as-Siba'i was assassinated by two Palestinians and that the losses suffered by our forces were the result of betrayal and treachery.

Allow me to submit to you a three-part report on what our armed forces did during that period. The first part deals with the circumstances of the assassination and the reaction of the Cyprus authorities, the second part deals with what happened at Larnaca airport in Cyprus and the third part deals with the results of the military actions taken.

All indications are that the Cyprus security authorities took a negative and nonchalant attitude toward the incident. The Cypriot policemen surrendered to the terrorists, laid down their weapons and carried out the orders of the terrorists to tie up the members of the conference who were the guests of Cyprus and under its protection. There were many manifestations of this negative attitude, and there were many opportunities which could have been exploited to capture the culprits and to prevent them from leaving Cyprus with 11 hostages. When the hostages and the two terrorists entered the bus in front of the hotel in Nicosia, it would have been very easy to have captured the two terrorists. The television film which recorded this moment will remain living proof against the Cyprus security authorities, exposing their absolutely negative behavior. Furthermore, the bus traveled the distance between Nicosia and Larnaca, about 45 km, without any positive measure being taken against it. The Cyprus authorities then prepared a Cyprus plane which carried the terrorists and the hostages away without any effort being made to rescue the hostages.

Yusuf as-Siba'i was assassinated in a Cyprus hotel in broad daylight. The two murderers and the 11 hostages, including 4 Egyptians, left Cyprus under the eyes of and with the help of the Cyprus authorities. This required swift and decisive action to capture the terrorists and rescue the hostages.

The plane landed in Djibouti at dawn on Sunday, 19 February. It was then decided to send the shock forces by air to Djibouti to carry out their mission there. Contacts were made between Egypt and Djibouti at the political level, and orders were issued to the shock force to be ready to move to Djibouti to carry out the mission.

We had adopted all the necessary measures to interfere positively with the plane should it enter or approach our airspace to insure the rescue of the hostages and the capture of the two terrorists. We then received information that the plane had left Djibouti for Larnaca airport taking the same route it took on its way to Djibouti, avoiding and keeping away from Egypt's airspace. Orders then were issued to the shock force to be ready to go to Cyprus to carry out its mission.

While the Cyprus plane was on its way back from Djibouti to Larnaca airport, contacts were made between Egypt and the Cyprus authorities at the political level regarding the rescue of the hostages and the capture of the two terrorists. I will leave this point to the prime minister to talk about.

I now move to the second part of my report about what really happened at Larnaca airport. At about 1830 on 19 February the Egyptian military plane carrying the shock force landed at Larnaca airport and remained there for 90 minutes observing the negotiations being conducted between the Cyprus authorities and the two terrorists on the basis of releasing the two terrorists, giving each of them a passport and once again insuring their departure from Cyprus to a destination of their choice.

This meant that the Cyprus authorities were endeavoring to enable the two terrorists to leave Cyprus again and enjoy freedom wherever they wished, while the blood of the late Yusuf as-Siba'i was not yet dry.

When the commander of the shock force discovered that the two terrorists would a few moments later be able to escape as a result of the failure of the Cyprus authorities to deal with the situation, he decided to storm the Cyprus plane to capture the two terrorists and rescue the hostages, and thus settle the matter in the interest of the Cyprus authorities.

Some members of the shock force rushed out in a jeep toward the Cyprus plane, got to the plane's gangway and opened fire as they went up it. At this point the two terrorists became frightened and hurried out of the plane and surrendered. The hostages were thus rescued and were safe, and the objective was achieved. [applause]

However, I say in all bitterness that at that moment the Cyprus National Guard opened up heavy fire from the roofs of the airport buildings, thus stabbing the storming force in the back and killing or wounding its members. Another unit of the shock force rushed out, according to plan, toward the plane to complete the mission, but it, too, came under the fire of armored vehicles hiding in the airport. Simultaneously the Cyprus National Guard forces fire antitank shots at the Egyptian plane, destroying it.

In view of these treacherous actions, which nobody expected from a friendly state and from friendly forces, the force commander had to act quickly to stop the exchange of fire, particularly since the objective had been achieved. Hence, the force commander, accompanied by six of the shock force members, hurried to another Cyprus plane which was parked at the airport with its crew in it. He entered the cockpit and used the plane's radio to contact the airport tower, and the exchange of fire between the Cyprus National Guard forces and the shock force stopped.

What happened at Larnaca airport clarifies many facts. The shock force was sent to Cyprus to fulfill two specific objectives: rescue the hostages and arrest the two terrorists who assassinated the late Yusuf as-Siba'i. This means that the shock force's mission was a humanitarian one and that Egypt never contemplated encroachment on the sovereignty of Cyprus. Neither the size nor the equipment of the force was such as to enable it to act outside the framework of this aim. Accordingly, there was no likelihood of a clash with the Cyprus side, which was supposed to provide the necessary conditions for the Egyptian force to carry out its mission with the assistance of the Cyprus side after it failed to take the appropriate action toward two criminals who violated its sovereignty and threatened its security, freedom and honor.

The strange thing is that on Saturday and Sunday the Cyprus authorities claimed that they did not open fire on the terrorists for fear that the hostages would be harmed. In other words, they claimed humanitarian motives, but they soon disproved this claim when they treacherously shed the blood of our soldiers. Here their intentions and their collusion with those who were behind the two terrorists became categorically clear. It suffices to say that they were anxious to save the lives of the two terrorists and to take the lives of the honorable Egyptian soldiers.

If the Cyprus authorities had any good will and good judgment they would have been able, from the time of the arrival of the Egyptian force at the airport, to take many measures to prevent the shock force from interfering. For example, they could have--any time during the 90 minutes the Egyptian plane was at the airport--requested it to take off and leave the airport with the shock force on board. Or they could have kept the Egyptian plane far away in the airport and could have prevented the soldiers from emerging from it and thus have completely prevented them from interfering with what was going on. They could have surrounded the plane with armored cars to prevent the interference of the shock force. There were many other measures which could have been resorted to instead of committing treachery against the Egyptian force after the latter had disembarked.

The fact that the Cyprus authorities for 90 minutes left the Egyptian plane on the spot they specified for it, about 500 meters from the plane containing the two terrorists, meant that these authorities were accepting the assistance of the shock force in containing the situation. Here occurred the treachery and regrettable deception for which the Cypriot side had paved the way and as a result of which the mission of the shock force turned into a suicide mission.

Had there been any likelihood of Cypriot intervention against our forces, the plan would have been completely different. I must here point out that making decisions under such complex situations is not an easy matter, nor is the implementation of everything easy, contrary to what some people away from the action may imagine.

Ladies and gentlemen, I now come to the third part of my report on the results of this operation and the intervention of the armed forces in it. The assassination of Yusuf as-Siba'i marks the beginning of a terrorist plot against the security of Egypt and the Egyptians. This means that any negative attitude toward it would encourage the extremists and the terrorists to proceed with their plot. This is why it was necessary to take swift and positive action. The military action, therefore, was imperative and dictated by circumstances, the realities and the security and honor of Egypt.

The Egyptian Armed Forces' intervention in the operation, as carried out by the shock and air forces, was the decisive and sole factor which compelled the two terrorists to surrender and gave the hostages the opportunity to be freed. Furthermore, as a result of this operation the Cyprus authorities have brought the two terrorists to trial after having announced that they would facilitate their safe departure from Cyprus with passports especially prepared for them. We are waiting to see whether the Cyprus authorities will respond to Egypt's request to hand over the two terrorists to it so that the circles which are behind the terrorism against Egypt may be exposed, or whether the Cyprus authorities will give them a sham trial that will end in their release.

We feel that this operation will not be the last and we believe that it will be followed by other operations. The armed forces will remain vigilant and completely ready to sacrifice and give for Egypt and the security of the homeland and the public, with all their efforts, sweat and blood.

The dimensions of the Cyprus operation have not all been uncovered yet. The Egyptian authorities are following all that is connected with this incident to get to its roots. While the finger is pointed in accusation at certain forces or circles which cooperated in planning and carrying out this plot, it is premature to reveal this now at this early stage before the picture is completely clear and supported by documents and incriminating evidence.

Egypt, while never abandoning its pan-Arab duty, will never submit to terrorism or piracy and will not let the Cyprus incidents go unpunished.

Justice Minister's Speech

NC272001Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1847 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Speech by Justice Minister Ahmad Samih Tal'at at 27 February session of the People's Assembly--recorded]

[Excerpt] If the crime of martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i's murder in Cyprus is within the jurisdiction of the Egyptian courts, according to what I have just pointed out, it follows that the public prosecution in Egypt should investigate the crime. Therefore, I have asked the public prosecutor to carry out this investigation quickly and to gather together all the facts connected with these crimes and their implications and motives and to find out those who perpetrated them, those who engineered them and those who participated in them or hid behind them so that the full facts may become clear.

Interior Minister's Speech

NC272133Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1905 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Speech by Interior Minister Muhammad Na'awi Isma'il at People's Assembly on 27 February--recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate, Mr Speaker of the People's Assembly, brother and sister members of the assembly: It is painful for me to stand among you just as it is painful for all of you to speak about the assassination of Egypt's dear departed, martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i, who was killed by the hand of treachery and treason.

As-Siba'i was a man who devoted his life to questions of humanity and liberation. It is a source of much regret and pain that his assassination should have been at the hands of Palestinian elements.

From the moment leader President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat announced that historic, civilized and humanitarian event--the peace initiative--the Arab rejectionist forces and the forces of the rejectionist Palestinian organizations and the international forces who are behind them and who are represented by the Soviet Union went crazy. They have become angry about that great event which made the entire world assume the responsibility of peace just as the leader president made them assume the responsibility of war by the "crossing" decision. They began to hold meetings and to plan and plot. Instead of meeting to plan for the sake of the Palestinian people's issue and for the sake of sublime national questions and interests, they passed rash sentences on the nationalists in order to cover up the war of the slogans which they had raised and in order to end their isolation and the state of political bankruptcy from which they are suffering.

As a result of coordination and integration, the security departments drew up the necessary plans to confront and abort these subversive plots. Information was received to the effect that they would move on both the external and domestic levels because of their belief that such subversive and bankrupt operations might distract us from our strategic goals and from our fateful issues. Moreover, they thought that by these attempts they could halt the march of progress and the momentum of the peace process to which the leader president had devoted all his efforts. Security measures were taken in the external sphere by notifying all our embassies of all these plots and their dimensions. In the domestic sphere, which was the principal and bigger target of these plots, several measures had been taken, which all of you are probably aware of.

If we move from generalities to the event which we are speaking about, namely, the assassination of martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i, I say that the information available to us was that the departed was among the personages on the list of the rejectionist forces. Security measures had been taken to insure his safety in Egypt. When it was decided to hold the AAPSO conference in Cyprus, the matter of insuring his safety and the safety of the Egyptian delegation that would accompany him was raised. As a result of the contacts which took place, it became evident to us that there were objections to holding the conference in Cyprus and that there were proposals to convene it in Cairo, Baghdad or Moscow itself, any of which would have been primarily responsible for insuring the safety of the conference. An advance party of the Egyptian delegation left for Cyprus to present all the information it had and to give the Cypriot officials a true picture of the situation. This advance party contacted martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i and informed him that it had secured clear reassurances from the president of Cyprus guaranteeing protection for the conference for its members and delegation and for Yusuf as-Siba'i personally in view of the conditions surrounding him and the plots the rejectionist forces had engineered against him. We were thus taken back by the attack against the martyr.

What had actually happened was that Yusuf as-Siba'i, who advocated love and peace, had not bothered to notify us before his departure of his decision on the meeting because he thought that that criminal hand could not reach him to carry out its ugly deed.

Brothers and sisters, we are pursuing the plots of these agent and pernicious forces, which are being provided with Arab financing by the Arab rejectionist forces. This financing, which is actually from the funds of the Arab people, is being used for such plots. We are also pursuing the international forces which are supplying them with information and plans. We are also pursuing those adventurous and Palestinian rejectionist elements which form an integral part of the chain of financing and the chain of information provided by foreign intelligence for these forces. None of this will divert us from our determination to shoulder our responsibilities and confront these plots.

I would like to reassure you on this occasion that in the aftermath of this incident and within the framework of the established measures, we have taken measures to guarantee that no delegation or any member of the leadership leaves Egypt before notifying us of the journey at an appropriate time before the date of the journey so that measures can be taken. These measures include dispatching advance security parties that will insure that the states which play host to these delegations assume their responsibilities and that will furnish these states will all the information about the situation so that they will be aware of its dimensions.

I have issued specific instructions to any Egyptian advance security party that if it is not satisfied with the security measures offered by any of the states in which any of our leaders are due to arrive, then it must take up the matter at the highest level in these states. If the party is still not satisfied, then it must place the facts before our representatives who have the choice of taking the appropriate decision concerning their security or returning to their homeland.

I tell you that we are aware of the plots and that we will confront challenges through cooperation, coordination and integration among all the security departments throughout Egypt.

People's Assembly Statement

NC2723102 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 February--The People's Assembly has praised the valiance of the shock and air forces which rescued the hostages from the Cypriot plane and arrested the two hijackers at Larnaca airport. The assembly expressed support for the firm and swift measures the government took in this respect as well as the measures it took to reassess Egyptian-Cypriot relations in light of the Cypriot Government's behavior.

In a statement issued at the conclusion of today's session, the assembly denounced the Cypriot authorities' behavior toward the Egyptian peace force and the subsequent aggression against the members of this force as it was carrying our its humanitarian duty. The assembly also denounced the Cypriot authorities' failure to arrest the two terrorists who had assassinated Yusuf as-Siba'i and their submission to the two terrorists' threats. The following is the text of the People's Assembly statement:

The assembly heard the statements and explanations made by the prime minister, the deputy prime minister and war minister, the justice minister, the interior minister and the minister of state for foreign affairs on the circumstances in which the deceased Yusuf as-Siba'i was assassinated in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 18 February 1978, on what took place afterward at Larnaca airport after the Egyptian plane had landed there to help the Cypriot authorities arrest the criminals and rescue the hostages on 19 February

and the repercussions this has had on the international and Arab spheres as well as on bilateral relations between Egypt and Cyprus. The assembly also listened to the members' comments on the questions and queries submitted by assembly members of all political parties and tendencies regarding this subject. The assembly reviewed its previous reports affirming support for the peace initiative Egypt has undertaken in its struggle for the liberation of all the Arab territories and the restoration of the Palestinian people's national rights and in its eagerness to restore the true meaning of Arab solidarity as something tolerating calm, objective dialog but disdaining violence and imposition of views.

The assembly also reviewed with appreciation what the departed Yusuf as-Siba'i had done throughout his lifetime in defense of the Palestinian cause and the issues of the peoples and Afro-Asian solidarity. The assembly reviewed the friendly relations that had always bound the Egyptian and Cypriot peoples and Egypt's stands of supporting the unity and independence of Cyprus, recalling, in particular, the People's Assembly's participation in the interparliamentary conference which was held in Nicosia last November in support of the Cypriot cause.

In view of all the above, and inspired by the provisions of the 1963 Tokyo agreement on crimes and actions committed aboard planes and by the Hague agreement of 1970 on combating illegal seizure of planes, by the Montreal agreement of 1971 on combating crimes against the safety of civil aviation--agreements which express the world's anxiety over the mounting wave of international terror, and inspired by the text and spirit of UN General Assembly Resolution 3034, issued on 18 December 1972, on the measures required to prevent international terrorism, the assembly declares the following:

1. It very strongly condemns the terrorist crime of assassination which claimed the life of the late Yusuf as-Siba'i. The ugliness of this crime is increased by the fact that it was committed by two Palestinian citizens. This is considered a blow to the struggle of the deceased for the sake of the Palestinian cause and a distortion of the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their rights.

The assembly calls on the government to continue its investigation and moves to expose the dimensions of this crime, those who engineered it and those who instigated it, whether directly or indirectly. It also calls on the government to continue its international endeavors to insure that the perpetrators of this despicable crime do not escape just punishment and to (?see to it that) the two criminals are handed over to the Egyptian authorities to try them according to Egyptian law and in accordance with international solidarity to combat terrorism.

2. The assembly denounces the failure of the Cyprus Government to carry out its duty in its capacity as the host state for the AAPSO conference and its failure to take the necessary precautions and measures to insure the safety of the participants in the conference, thus making it easy for the assassination to take place and exposing the lives of the rest of the Egyptian participants in the conference to danger. The assembly also denounces the Cypriot authorities' failure to arrest the criminals and its submission to their threats despite the fact that they had more than one opportunity to take the measures dictated by their international responsibilities.

it denounces, in particular, the Cypriot authorities' behavior toward the Egyptian peace force which had gone to the island to help the Cypriot authorities to do what they had not been able to do--rescue the hostages and arrest the criminals--and the subsequent aggression carried out against the members of this force as it was carrying out its humanitarian mission.

3. The assembly praises the valiance of the shock and air forces, which carried out the task assigned to them selflessly and with courage, sacrificing their lives for the sake of Egypt's cause of defending the whole world by seeking to put an end to the operations of international terrorism. It salutes the appreciation shown by the Egyptian people, by the president of the republic and by the government for the heroism of our armed forces and their good performance. It also supports the firm and swift measures the Egyptian Government took to rescue the hostages and arrest the criminals as well as the measures it has taken to reassess Egyptian-Cypriot relations in light of the Cypriot authorities' behavior and what they can do to rectify their position.

4. While condemning terrorism and violence, irrespective of who commits it and irrespective of whom it is committed against, the assembly calls on those responsible for the leadership of the Palestinian organizations to assume their responsibilities and to purge the Palestinian resistance movement of those who distort its legitimate image and confuse, either deliberately or out of ignorance, legitimate resistance actions with criminal terrorist actions.

The assembly lauds the adherence of the president of the republic and the government to Egypt's declared policy--from which it has not departed--of considering the Palestinian cause a fundamental basis of Egyptian strategy no matter how far some groups of the Palestinian resistance or its leaders deviate from the right path and irrespective of the how many sins are committed by individuals belonging to or counted as the Palestinian people.

5. The assembly supports the measures the government is taking in cooperation with the peace-loving states in the world to deal with the wave of international terrorism, which exposes to danger the basic freedoms of man and threatens his democratic institutions. The assembly asks the assembly's competent committees to follow up the international [words indistinct] aimed at reaching an international agreement to combat international terrorism.

KAMIL ASSAILS ISRAELI DECISION ON SETTLEMENTS

NC271435Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 February--In a statement today, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said that the Israeli Cabinet's decision to strengthen and expand the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories is a new indication that the Israeli Government is not responding in the new spirit created by President as-Sadat's initiative. It also indicates that Israel is determined to persist in violating all the principles of international law and the UN resolutions and to defy world public opinion, which has strongly condemned the Israeli expansionist policy and the attempt to seize the territories of others.

In his statement Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said that the gravity of the situation created by the Israeli decision is increased by the fact that it was taken at a time when the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, Alfred Atherton, is making intensive efforts to pave the way for a just, peaceful and overall settlement in the Middle East on the basis of the principles endorsed by the international community. These principles stipulate the impermissibility of seizing the lands of the others and the need to respect sovereignty and legitimate rights.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil added in his statement that the Israeli decision, and especially the fact that it has been taken at this time, casts heavy shadows of doubt on the Israeli intentions and indicates that Israel does not want and is not sincere in going along with the efforts which are being exerted for the sake of peace on the basis of President as-Sadat's initiative. This initiative has been supported by millions of justice- and peace-loving states and peoples who have also pinned their hopes on it. Moreover, this initiative has for the first time created a true opportunity for the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said that the Egyptian Government reaffirms its firm stand: There will be no peace with expansion of territories, and complete Israeli withdrawal is one of the basic conditions for a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Talks to Journalists

NC2718355Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1748 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 February--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has emphasized that the Israeli Government's decision to pursue its policy of settlements in the Arab territories does not indicate that Israel has any intention of proceeding in the direction of making progress in the peace talks. Nor, he said, does it in any way conform with the spirit created by President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative.

The foreign minister pointed out that this decision is also in flagrant defiance of international public opinion and of the U.S. Government's stand prior to the Israeli prime minister's forthcoming visit to the United States.

Replying to questions from newsmen today after he had made the official statement on the Israeli decision, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil explained that the Israeli Cabinet's decision has come at a time when U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton is exerting efforts and after U.S. President Carter had made the statement following his meetings with President as-Sadat at the White House in which he announced that the United States regards the settlements as illegal, contrary to international law and an obstacle to peace and to reaching a settlement. The foreign minister pointed out that this again confirms Israel's insistence on placing this obstacle on the road to peace.

Asked whether the Israeli Government's stand of pursuing its settlements policy is an attempt to put pressure to bear on the United States, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said: "We are cooperating with U.S. representative Atherton in his mission. We shall pursue any cooperation that will bring peace nearer." The foreign minister added: However, as far as Israel's stand is concerned and whether it constitutes an attempt to bring pressure to bear on the United States, this is Israel's business and we will not comment on it.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil added: We will cooperate with Atherton to the end. The nature of his mission requires several discussions and a calm atmosphere. He continued: Egypt affirms its stand on a just peace. Egypt's stand is based on the principle that there will be no peace with expansion of territories and without complete withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

Kamil pointed out that Egypt's firm stand stems from what President as-Sadat declared in Jerusalem. He said: We are committed to what the president said. It is a principled stand and our adherence to it does not mean any kind of inflexibility.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil explained that Atherton's return to the Middle Eastern area is in accordance with President Carter's decision to intensify the U.S. efforts to achieve a declaration of principles and to narrow the gap between Egypt and Israel over this declaration. The decision resulted from the latest meeting between Presidents as-Sadat and Carter when President as-Sadat explained his determination to give the Israeli side another chance after Egypt's withdrawal from the meetings of the Political Committee and to keep the door open before it.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said the Egyptian side welcomes the U.S. stand to give Atherton a chance to continue his contacts in a calm atmosphere so that his mission will bear fruit.

KAMIL: MANY STATES MEDIATING BETWEEN EGYPT, CYPRUS

NC271840Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 February--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has stated that Egyptian Ambassador to Cyprus Hasan Shash, today submitted to him a report on what had taken place in Cyprus with regard to the assassination of Yusuf as-Siba'i and what befell the Egyptian shock forces. In reply to questions from newsmen today, tne foreign minister pointed out that the report will be studied. He said there have been many endeavors by several states, including Greece and Yugoslavia, to mediate between Egypt and Cyprus.

Meets With Greek Ambassador

NC272134Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 27 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 February--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil this evening met with Greek Ambassador in Cairo Ioannis Yiannakakis within the framework of the contacts that are taking place between the two countries concerning the recent events in Cyprus.

Ghali Meets With French Ambassador

NC241343Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1307 GMT 24 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 February--At noon today Dr Butrus Ghali, the minister of state for foreign affairs, met with the French ambassador in Cairo, Jaques Senard, at the ambassador's request. It was learned that during the meeting the French ambassador inquired about the Cyprus incidents, the subsequent breakoff of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Cyprus and Egypt's withdrawal of recognition of Kiprianou as president of the Republic of Cyprus.

Dr Butrus Ghali also received today Cardinal Hoffmann, the archbishop of Cologne in West Germany, who is currently visiting Cairo on his way to India.

PRESS AFFIRMS EGYPT WILL NOT DISAVOW PALESTINE

NC2607262 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 26 Feb 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpts] In a commentary headlined "The Common Fate of the Arab Nation," the newspaper AL-AKHBAR points out that Egypt's stands on the Arab issues stem from firm principles which derive their strength from belief in the common history, aims, and interests of the Arab nation. What some Arab leaders are doing will not divert Egypt from its historic course because it distinguishes between the transient positions of some leaders and the genuine brotherhood of the Arab people.

The paper says that on this basis it is possible to understand Egypt's determination to defend the right of the Palestinian people to determine their future and to demand that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories. This is true despite the deep wound Egypt is suffering following the ugly crime represented in the assassination of martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i and despite our conviction that responsibility for this crime falls on those who used the worst methods of incitement and agitation against the political and information leaders in Egypt following President as-Sadat's initiative.

Under the headline "Egypt Will Not Disavow Palestine," AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses a similar view. The paper points out that the timing of the recent events confirms that their perpetrators and those behind them do not want Egypt to defend Palestine or include the Palestinian issue in its efforts for peace. They imagined that when As-Sadat went to Jerusalem he went to sell out the Palestinians and the Palestinian issue in order to buy Egypt's territory and security.

The paper asserts that those who hide behind the screen want the Egyptian people to disavow Palestine and the Palestinian issue so they themselves will not be exposed before their peoples and the world. For this reason they sent two murderers to commit their crime in the name of Palestine. The paper stresses that Egypt will not disavow Palestine or the Palestinian issue. But at the same time, Palestine will not be for the murderers and terrorists but for its genuine people who today live under occupation.

AL-AHRAM: RECOGNITION OF 'ARAFAT MIGHT BE WITHDRAWN

NC2516112 Cairo DPA in Arabic 1518 GMT 25 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 February--The semiofficial Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM says today that Egypt will continue to struggle for the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people but adds that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat "is finished." In an editorial AL-AHRAM, which expresses the Egyptian Government's view, was confirming the views of political circles that Egypt might withdraw its recognition of 'Arafat as the leader of the PLO.

Referring to the Tripoli summit conference, which denounced As-Sadat's historic trip to Jerusalem, AL-AHRAM's chief editor 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal says: 'Arafat must have known that he was finished from the day he endorsed the poisons which resulted from the rejectionist conference. 'Arafat is finished because he is playing the role of Samson and the PLO will not collapse over his head alone but also over the heads of those who are drawing up policy for him and who are writing for him the words he is parroting.

SPEAKER MAR'I COMMENTS ON ARMS DEAL, CYPRUS, USSR

NC261625Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1302 GMT 26 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 February--In an exclusive interview with a MENA correspondent, People's Assembly Speaker Sayyid Mari'i has affirmed that the courageous initiative made by President Anwar as-Sadat now belongs to all of the people of the world, who understand the seriousness of Egypt's intentions. However, these peoples are still waiting for Israel to prove that it has equally serious intentions.

The following is the text of Sayyid Mar'i's interview:

Replying to a question, Sayyid Mar'i says: We appeal to the members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to respond favorably to the U.S. Government's decision to supply Egypt with the proposed defensive weapons. The U.S. Government has made this decision because it understands that it is high time for U.S. policy to better reflect the U.S. understanding of the Middle East issue. President Anwar as-Sadat's successful visit to the United States was primarily a working visit through which a clear, more decisive U.S. stand has jelled on the conflict in the Middle East.

Sayyid Mar'i adds: The proposed sale of U.S. F-5 planes to Egypt is considerably incommensurate with Egypt's needs and its responsibility for preserving security in the area, but it does represent the first deal of its kind. It also epitomizes a constructive U.S. stand built on an equal basis, which Egypt's policy has for the first time successfully brought about. This political stand represents a qualitative change in the U.S. stand for the first time in 30 years.

Sayyid Mar'i points out that, on its part, the United States has taken into account the following three principal factors in responding to Egypt's request:

1. To help push the peace talks forward, particularly since Egypt needs a plausible safeguard for its defensive capabilities if it is to confidently seal the negotiations.

2. These sales should be compatible with the needs of the three states.

3. The sale of fighter planes to Egypt for the first time will contribute to maintaining the military equilibrium between Egypt and Israel, particularly since Israel has already procured all the U.S. fighter planes it needs, while Egypt has not received any planes from its previous arms supplier--the Soviet Union--since the October 1973 war.

Sayyid Mar'i then announces that he has been invited by the speakers of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and that he will indeed lead a parliamentary delegation to the United States within a few weeks.

About the Cyprus incidents, Sayyid Mar'i says that Cyprus President Mr Kiprianou understands that the sole door through which the erosion of Egyptian-Cypriot relations can be halted is the very same door which led to the deterioration in these relations in the first place.

The Egyptian shock force went to mount a humantarian rescue operation--and the whole world has sympathised with this operation. But from the beginning, the reaction and behavior of Mr Kiprianou were characterised by very bad intentions. Martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i was assassinated on Cypriot soil and while he was under Cypriot protection. Mr Kiprianou, who had failed to insure security on his very own territory to the members of an international conference, should have appreciated Egypt's desire to defeat terrorism in the land where terrorism had been perpetrated. But, instead of this, Mr Kiprianou preferred to deal with the criminals and stabbed the victims in the back. By his actions Mr Kiprianou has raised big and serious question marks about his attitude toward and role in terrorism since its inception.

On the other hand, and from the outset, Egypt's behavior toward Cyprus has been based on the close friendship which historically binds the Egyptian and Cypriot peoples together. It is hoped that Mr Kiprianou would appreciate the fact that the Egyptian shock force had been sent to Cyprus not only to rescue innocent hostages in discharging a humanitarian mission, but also to prevent the repetition of this terrorism on Cypriot soil in the future.

Therefore, and within this context, Mr Kiprianou's handing over of the terrorist thugs to Egypt would represent proof of his good intentions. But the complete opposite is happening. This further testifies to the fact that Mr Kiprianou does not want the two murderers to fall into the hands of Egyptian justice. Furthermore, Mr Kiprianou does not want Egypt to have a clue as to the motive for the crime and the true masterminds.

Egypt had asked the Cypriot authorities for permission to send a plane to help the Cyprus Government free the hostages. The plane arrived at Larnaca airport and stayed there 90 minutes without being bothered in any way. First of all, this confirms that the Cyprus Government had prior knowledge of the plane's mission. Secondly, it confirms that the primary aim of the Egyptian shock force group was to let the Cyprus authorities exert every effort and attempt to arrest the killers. However, the Cyprus authorities made no effort and did not even try to exert any effort.

Despite all this, the Cyprus authorities' slackness, grave neglect and collusion at this one stage turned into a completely different thing when the Egyptian shock force group decided to act to free the hostages and prevent the killers from escaping. At that very minute the Cypriot police, who had been spectators, moved. Fire was opened and armored cars, which had been concealed, appeared, and the Cypriot authorities began directing their fire not against the criminals but at the backs of the victims.

The Cypriot authorities could have cooperated with the Egyptian shock force group from the very beginning. They could have waited until the force had carried out its mission. They could have prevented the force from carrying out its mission by merely informing it that it would be prevented or by cordoning off the Egyptian plane.

However, instead of all this, the Cypriot authorities preferred to wait until the Egyptian rescue team had completed its mission of arresting the killers and then stabbed the team in the back. Engineer Sayyid Mar'i adds: If all this does not indicate collusion on the part of Kiprianou and his government, then what is the explanation?

Engineer Sayyid Mar'i then deals with Egyptian-Soviet relations. He says the Soviet Union has adopted a hostile attitude toward Egypt over the past years, going so far as to impose a total arms embargo on Egypt--arms which Egypt needs for self-defense. We would have expected the Soviet Union to adopt a constructive stance regarding the question of peace in the area, particularly since the Soviet Union has believed from the very beginning that a peaceful solution is the only course Egypt must pursue.

When Egypt actually turned toward peace with a courageous initiative supported by all of international public opinion, it was surprised by a more hostile attitude. We were even surprised by the Soviet Union's attempt to set up a rejection front in the area against the Egyptian initiative. We might have understood this had the Soviet Union proposed an alternative or had the rejection front adopted a better strategy to secure Arab rights, but neither of these two alternatives occurred.

The Soviet Union is seeking to impose a comprehensive political and military blockade against Egypt. For this purpose it is using the Arab rejection front to its own advantage and not in favor of the Arab cause.

The Soviet Union is now calling for the resumption of the Geneva conference. We would like to remind the Soviet Union that Egypt has exerted every effort for the reconvening of this conference but that Syria has put obstacles in the way of its reconvening.

Commenting on the U.S. decision to supply planes and defensive arms to Egypt, the Soviet newspaper PRAVDA said this week that Washington's decision to sell modern fighter planes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia meant planting another mine under a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem because this is inconsistent with President Carter's call for reducing arms sales to foreign countries. This was what PRAVDA said. The Soviet Union is doing everything to ban arms supplies to Egypt whether from the Soviet Union or from other sources.

In fact I have never read any statement more based on malice against Egypt than this statement. Arms, in the Soviet Union's view, are always permissible if they are for Israel or Syria, but impermissible if they are for Egypt.

Asked about the present Palestinian attitude toward Egypt, Engineer Sayyid Mar'i says: Although we appreciate the situation of the Palestinians this does not prevent us from rejecting the inane anti-Egyptian behavior of some Palestinian elements.

Egypt has always been and always will be the last fortress of the Palestinian question. Any time plots have been directed against the Palestinian people--the last of which was the Tall az-Za'tar massacre in Lebanon--Egypt has been the bastion giving unlimited support to the Palestinian people at no cost.

We expect everybody to realize that the Palestinian question--like Egypt--is the victim of the crime committed in Cyprus. We also expect everybody to realize that President Anwar as-Sadat has carried the Palestinian question on his shoulders to all parts of the world and has put the question of the legitimate political rights in the forefront of the bases which Egypt upholds for the establishment of a lasting and just peace in the area. We also believe that it is time that the Palestinian people adopt a decisive position against irresponsible elements who are harming the Palestinian question.

MAR'I BRIEFS ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES ON AS-SADAT TOUR

NC262151Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Feb 78 NC

[Text] The People's Assembly's Foreign Relations, Arab Affairs and National Security committees held a meeting under Assembly Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i this evening. Engineer Sayyid Mar'i made a statement on the aims of President Anwar as-Sadat's recent trip to the United States and some European countries.

He said the aim of the visit was to determine the U.S. stand and its readiness to change its policy in face of the intransigent Israeli attitude, to ask it to undertake positive mediation in the Middle East and to furnish the Egyptian armed forces with U.S. weapons in order to consolidate security in the area and establish a kind of balance in it. Another aim of the visit was to explain to U.S. and European public opinion the Egyptian position on the Israeli settlements in Sinai and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The assembly speaker said the aim of the visit has been achieved. The best proof of this can be seen in the comments, reports and news in the United States and the European countries, which have supported the Egyptian right for the first time--a matter which has created a situation which has placed Israel in a defensive position before the U.S. citizens. The assembly speaker also explained the European states' stand and clear support for the Egyptian position as well as their unanimous support for Egypt's position on the world socialist conference.

The People's Assembly speaker said that the U.S. stand has changed, according to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. This change can be summed up in the search for a suitable formula for the legitimate Palestinian existence. The White House has described Vance's statement as an affirmation of the policy the United States will adopt--a policy that stresses the removal of the Israeli settlements from Sinai.

Engineer Sayyid Mar'i pointed out that attempts are still being made to distrot the Arab issue and to exploit any situation against the interest of peace in the area. He said it is not a matter of the Arab states playing the role of spectator. He said that the strength of Egyptian policy and Arab solidarity depend simply and solely on the cohesiveness of the Egyptian front. He said the road to peace is not strewn with roses but its results are guaranteed as long as we adhere to principles.

A debate then took place between the committee members and the People's Assembly speaker on the most important current events in the area and the African Continent.

COURT ACQUITS 5 AT-TAKFIR WA AL-HIJRAH DEFENDANTS

NC251925Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1850 GMT 25 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 February--The Supreme State Security Court today acquitted five defendants accused of belonging to the secret organization At-Takfir wa al-Hijrah. The court was hearing the case in which 204 persons have been charged with attempting to overthrow the state's basic social system, which is based on Islamic law. The sentences in the main case were delivered on 31 January when 30 defendants received sentences ranging from 6 months to 2 years in prison and 6 others, including 5 women, received 6-month suspended sentences.

AL-JUMHURIYAH SCORES DAVID OWEN'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR

JN271052Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 27 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 February--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH here today attacked the current tour of British Foreign Secretary David Owen in the area.

The paper says that British diplomacy is seeking a leading role in the so-called peaceful efforts in the area at the behest of the United States, which wants to benefit from Britain's long experience in the affairs of the Arab region and the Middle East in general.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Britain is in no position to adopt an independent decision on international affairs. Britain will continue to play the role of a lackey, failing to pursue an independent foreign policy away from U.S. control.

The paper says that after the October 1973 war, Britain tried to break away from U.S. policy when it supported the minimum demands of the Palestinian Arab people and condemned the continued Zionist occupation of Arab territory. But soon this line became shaky and then changed. The British position is now the same as the U.S. [illegible].

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Owen tour aims at liquidating the Palestine question and making Jordan join the Zionist-As-Sadat negotiations because this is an essential factor for achieving a settlement that would involve the West Bank and Gaza.

The paper says that the tour also aims at raising the possibility of a British role in operating the early warning stations in occupied Sinai and other areas. This exposes the close link between the British and U.S. positions and the fact that Britain is playing the role of "the clever and experienced assistant."

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out in this connection that Britain voted in the Human Rights Committee meeting in Geneva against the Palestinian Arab people's rights, including their right to return to their usurped homeland and to determine their own destiny. Britain also refused to condemn the Zionist entity for violating fundamental human rights.

ATH-THAWRAH DISCUSSES GOALS BEHIND U.S. OIL POLICY

LD271845Y Baghdad ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Feb 78 p 3 ID

[Harbi Muhammad article: "Oil and U.S. Policy in the Area"]

[Text] Talk about the irresponsible management of Arab oil funds, commonly known as "money surpluses," has become a sad affair, particularly if we examined closely the socioeconomic map of the Arab homeland. Backwardness with its far-reaching implications is still prevalent in the Arab world. If we take the Arab countryside as a typical example, we come across astounding facts. For example, the rate of illiteracy among the peasants is more than 95 percent and the average income of the Arab farmer in the best circumstances does not exceed 5 Iraqi dinars per annum. There is also an absence of health services in some parts of the country, to the extent that some areas seem isolated from the world and live in the medieval age.

For example, there is one doctor for every 10,000 people while the international average is one doctor to 1,200 persons. Also, 90 percent of school age Arab children are without education.

This is part of the true picture of the Arab situation and changing it to a "better" level requires billions of dollars. Despite the fact that these billions are available, they are devoted to enriching the capitalist industrial states and a handful of "Arabs" who became so wealthy largely as a result of the role of imperialism. Between 1974-1976 the Arab oil countries invested $103 billion as follows:

$41 billion in the European money market; $33.5 billion in the United States; $6.75 billion in Britain; and $21.75 billion in other capitalist states. These include West Germany, France, Switzerland, Japan and Italy.

During President Carter's visit to the Arab area recently, he stressed the great importance of certain allied oil states for the security and prosperity of the United States.

Before his departure, Carter carried with him a report by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on obtaining more oil and more oil money. The report contained four principles, which are:

--Insuring the security of oilfields and installations.

--Reaching a quick and decisive solution to the Arab-Israeli situation.

--Curbing the Soviet Union's advance toward obtaining bases as well as influence in the area.

--Supporting the "moderate" regimes which are loyal to the West and hostile to the socialist bloc.

The first point means purchasing more U.S. weapons and military equipment, receiving hundreds of experts and giving away more military facilities. For example, the American companies Northrop, Raytheon, Lockheed, Hughes and McDonnel-Douglas are the main procurers of arms to the Arab area and the Middle East. Their total arms sales have reached $30 billion. For example, in one of the gulf oil states there are 29,000 American experts with their families. Therefore, the idea of "insuring the security of the oilfields" is just an excuse to justify the exhaustion of oil money on the one hand and preparing some of the allied regimes to play the role of guardian of imperialist interests in the area on the other.

During his visit to the area Carter secured Arab financial reserves, particularly since the reserves of only two of the Arab oil countries by the end of 1978 will make up 40 percent of the total foreign reserves of the IMF member states.

Arab officials have assured Carter that they will "sincerely and faithfully" try to support the dollar. This is evident in the fact that 70 percent of their funds abroad are in dollars. Moreover, Carter has insured for the United States in particular, and the West in general, an increase in oil production in the eighties.

The report which was recently prepared by the U.S. General Accounting Office reveals the truth about the U.S. policy in the Arab area. As parts of the report were leaked to the world press, reports were published to the effect that the White House does not approve of the recommendations contained in it. But the fact is that the United States is translating the contents of the report into daily action in the area.

The report points to a number of means the United States must use against OPEC.

These are: the position of the United States as the headquarters of the major oil companies with the know-how in technology, transportation, refining, and marketing facilities which are regarded as the principal elements in the bargaining power with OPEC countries; the U.S. leading position as a producer of advanced technology and administrative expertise; its leading and, sometimes, arbitrary position in controlling the flow of international loans, loan guarantees, and aid; the vast and guaranteed opportunities in the United States provides for fund investments; its ability to provide "security" to the other countries; and its leadership in international relationships, coupled with its ability to be a "mediator" in disputes.

These advantages, according to the report, enable the United States to request a "compensation" for the flow of goods, services, technology, credit facilities, investments, and military aid to certain OPEC countries. In return, the United States must impose restrictions on the flow of these matters in case a decision is taken for an unreasonable rise in OPEC oil prices or in case OPEC reduces oil production as a means of obtaining political advantages from the United States.

What happened at the Caracas conference and prior to it--particularly since President as-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem--reveals the seriousness of U.S. coordination with certain reactionary Arab countries. There was a prior agreement among the pro-U.S. regimes in OPEC to freeze the prices, despite material and financial damage to OPEC interests. And this is what has actually happened.

It is no secret that the more the U.S. dependence on Arab oil to meet its requirements increases, the more likely becomes the possibility of dealing a strong blow to its economy and aggressive policy.

For example, any new Arab oil embargo would deprive the United States of 46 percent of its oil imports. Even a partial oil ban would deprive the United States of 1.2 million barrels per day that cannot be compensated for by members of the International Energy Commission.

Any change in the Arab arena in favor of the Arab revolution movement will upset U.S. calculations. Our contemporary history is witness to the fact that our Arab people have a potential for surprises that even the most up-to-date computers cannot predict. Therefore, the United States is trying to rearrange the situation in the Arab area until reliable substitutes for Arab oil are found or until the Arab oil reserves are exhausted. This is why the settlement of the Palestine problem is closely linked to U.S. control on Arab oil and gas.

Washington has shifted from using Kissinger's step-by-step policy, which has served its purpose, to the "centralized links" formula of President Carter's National Security Adviser Brzezinski which depends on the following three stages:

--Instant and direct support for the capitulatory settlement between As-Sadat's regime and the Zionist enemy, which is to be followed by;

--An agreement between Jordan, the so-called "moderate Palestinians, and the Zionist entity on the position of the West Bank for the establishment of a "Palestinian state" that will be based on liquidating the Palestinian problem and which, in turn will lead to;

--An agreement between the Syrian regime and the Zionist entity through the Geneva conference in participation with the Soviet Union and joint U.S.-Soviet guarantees for the so-called "comprehensive peace."

But the big question that remains on the mind of the U.S. policymakers is: For how long can the United States preserve the existence of the capitulatory and reactionary regimes? The answer will always remain with the masses of the Arab nation alone.

SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN251319Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 25 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 February--The delegation of CPSU cadres led by Aleksandr (Yutivin), member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the party committee of the city of Kiev, arrived here today on a visit of several days at an invitation from the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The delegation's visit is in implementation of the cooperation protocol between the two friendly parties and the exchange of expertise in the field of party organization and administration of economic activities.

BULGARIAN AGRICULTURE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN241649Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 24 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 February--A Bulgarian delegation led by Gancho Krustev, minister of agriculture and food industry, arrived in Baghdad today on a 1-week visit to Iraq. Mr Krustev will head the Bulgarian side in the Iraqi-Bulgarian joint committee which will hold its 10th meeting during the Bulgarian delegation's visit to Iraq. The Iraqi side on the committee is headed by Mr Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform.

The joint committee will discuss technical issues, the development of agriculture and livestock, and cooperation in the scientific-technological aspects of agriculture and agrarian reform. The committee held its last meeting in Sofia in August.

Meets With Agriculture Minister

JN290902Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 25 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 February--Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, met here today with Gancho Krustev, Bulgarian minister of agriculture and food industry, and the members of the delegation accompanying him. Agricultural cooperation and means to strengthen this cooperation between the two friendly countries were discussed at the meeting.

IRAQ, CEMA SIGN MINUTES ON COOPERATION IN OIL INDUSTRY

JN271342Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 27 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 February--The minutes of a joint meeting between a group of experts representing the oil sector in Iraq and a group of CEMA oil experts from the socialist countries were signed after several meetings. The minutes provide for the establishment of multifaceted cooperation between the two sides in the petroleum and gas industries.

AR-RA'Y CRITICIZES EGYPTIAN ACTS' AGAINST PALESTINIANS

JN281007Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Feb 78 pp 1, 9 JN

[Editorial: "Why All This"]

[Text] We are surprised with the Egyptian Government's measures and action following the As-Siba'i assassination against Cyprus, the PLO, the Palestinian people and even the Palestine question. This is because Egypt's reaction to the crime of assassination, which we strongly denounce, was not based on reasonable standpoints and may have completely unacceptable and unreasonable results.

As a comparison, over 5 years ago Jordanian Prime Minister Wasfi at-Tall was shot down in the heart of the Egyptian capital, a victim of terrorism. Despite the big difference between the crime of Cairo and the crime of Larnaca, Jordan did not go beyond reasonable and acceptable limits in its reaction. Jordan did not antagonize Egypt, relinquish the Palestine question or accuse the Palestinian people of terrorism.

Wasfi at-Tall was murdered by three people. We still have the text of President as-Sadat's cable to His Majesty King Husayn. However, the sham trial, which placed the whole of Jordan in the dock, acquitted the defendants and made them heroes of the cause. Despite this, Jordan did not go beyond the limits of reason and logic. Jordan contained the tragedy together with its sons of the Medinan Jordanians and Palestinian Meccans. [reference to Medinan followers of Mohammad who granted him refuge after the Hegira and to those Meccans who emigrated to Medina in the early period of Islam]. The sons of the one people, Palestinians and Jordanians, rushed to carry the casket of martyr At-Tall to his burial place.

The question is: Why is this grudge erupting in Cairo's press and official departments? Why are the Palestinian people being condemned for terrorism and the Cypriot people for collusion? We would have liked just to remember Wasfi at-Tall and not bring his name up as a reminder to Egypt. Egypt has made a great uproar and turned the assassination into a justification to reconsider its international relations and pan-Arab affiliations.

We are with Egypt in denouncing terrorism, but the existence of a few terrorists does not justify condemning as terrorists all the people they stem from. We mentioned the Sheraton crime not to allay the Hilton crime and that of Larnaca airport, but to indicate that there have been several occasions where it was not seen fit to condemn an entire people or lose one's nerves in the manner we are witnessing in fraternal Egypt.

AD-DUSTUR CRITICIZES ISRAELI EXPLOITATION OF LARNACA

JN240913Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Feb 78 p 1 JN

[Editorial: "Egypt Is Stronger Than Instigation and Lure"]

[Text] It is obvious that Israel does not want the hot-tempered sentiments that flared in Egypt as a result of the Cyprus incident to abate. Thus, Israeli information media have indulged in action to fan the fire in order to make Egypt give up the Palestine issue and accept a separate solution with Israel. This aim is no longer a matter of speculation, for the newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT frankly admitted it when it called on the Israeli Government to offer a separate reconciliation [sulh] with Egypt "after all that has happened in Cyprus."

In addition to this the Israeli paper used the Cyprus incidents as a pretext to call on Egypt to abandon the Palestinians. At the same time, other Israeli papers hinted that these incidents will inevitably "affect the talks among Egypt, Israel and the United States."

Thus it is clear that Israel is striving to exploit the tragedy in its favor by inciting and luring Egypt to seek a unilateral solution, as if this would be a way to retaliate and revenge the assassination of Yusuf as-Siba'i. Undoubtedly Israel's attempt to hold the Palestine issue responsible for As-Sib'i's blood and the blood of the Egyptian soldiers in Larnaca Airport is no less evil and dangerous than what happened on the island. This attempt is aimed at driving a wedge between the Egyptian and Palestinian peoples and consequently at striking at the Palestine question in the Egyptian arena by using Egypt.

Israel, however, forgot that all the angry sentiments that erupted in Cairo were but an expression of the wrath over the shedding of Arab blood by Arab hands. This position cannot be interpreted as an indication that the Egyptian people want to detach themselves from their responsibilities in the Arab arena as Arab people and as an indivisible part of the Arab nation.

As Israel is acting purposely and with ill intention to sow dissension between the Egyptian and Palestinian peoples and to make Egypt relinquish the Palestine issue, this subversive conduct on the part of Israel does not surprise anyone. The point that must be emphasized is that the Arabs have a role which they must play to thwart this evil conduct and to demonstrate a unified stand against the shedding of Arab blood by Arab hands.

Arab Egypt, which has always adhered to its pioneering responsibilities throughout Arab history, will not at all relinquish its pan-Arab responsibilities in these critical circumstances, whatever the size of the tragedy of the Cyprus incidents. This is a conviction of every Arab. What strengthens this conviction is that President as-Sadat turned a deaf ear to the Israeli instigations and lures to embark on a separate solution. This is because As-Sadat, no doubt, realizes that such a solution would in itself be a tragedy exceeding the Cyprus tragedy and all the tragedies that the Arab question has encountered so far.

AMMAN COMMENTS ON OWEN'S VISIT, RABIN'S REMARKS

JN2617577 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan the regent yesterday explained to the British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs the basic factors of the Jordanian stand on the Middle East crisis. But the British foreign secretary understood these factors as a result of his talks with His Majesty King Husayn, who is currently visiting Britain, his meetings with Jordanian officials, headed by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan the regent, and his tours of the refugee camps to learn about the state of the Palestinians in the camps. These activities have given him a vivid and true picture of the realistic principles of Jordanian policy.

The British foreign secretary has noted that the Jordanian stand on the negotiations depends to a large extent on a declaration of principles concerning the settlement.

This declaration must include Israel's acceptance of complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, the right of the Palestinian people to determine their own destiny and the termination of measures involving the settlement of the Jews in the occupied Arab territories.

Despite the clear Jordanian stand, the government of Menahem Begin has been insisting that Jordan should take part in the negotiations before the issuance of any clearcut declaration of principles, in accord with which all the concerned parties might take part in the peace process. Former Israeli Prime Minister Rabin yesterday exposed the false Israeli call for Jordan to take part in the negotiations when he declared that the Israeli attitude has not enabled Jordan to join the negotiations as Jordan would not get anything in return for its participation. This means that Israel insists on its continued occupation of the West Bank and Arab Jerusalem.

Why then all these contradictions, and at whose expense is Israel gaining time by blaming Jordan and the other sides for the deadlock in the negotiations? These negotiations were certain to fail because of the Israeli stand, which undertook expansion of the settlements at a time when the Arabs began their serious moves toward peace.

The issue is not the participation of this or that side, or the lack of such participation in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. Rather it is Israel's reluctance to commit itself to anything concerning the withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT ARRIVES FOR TALKS

JN2608442 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Feb 78 p 10 JN

[Text] Mohamed Yazid, Algerian ambassador in Beirut, arrived in Amman last night on an official visit to Jordan during which he will meet with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan the regent. Yazid stated that his visit to Jordan comes within the framework of exchanging information and viewpoints, and in implementation of what was agreed on during Algerian President Houari Boumediene's recent visit to Jordan and his meeting with his brother His Majesty King Husayn. Yazid praised the good fraternal relations existing between Jordan and Algeria.

Presents Letter to Husayn

JN2614552 Amman JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 26 February--Crown Prince Hasan the regent today received a letter sent to King Husayn from Algerian President Houari Boumediene dealing with the current Arab situation and bilateral relations. The letter was delivered to the crown prince by the Algerian ambassador in Beirut who is currently visiting Jordan.

KING HUSAYN REPORTEDLY TO VISIT U.S. IN MARCH

NC2410162 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0956 GMT 24 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Amman, 24 February--The MENA correspondent in Amman has learned that King Husayn of Jordan will pay a private visit to the United States during the second half of March. During the visit he will have contacts with President Jimmy Carter, U.S. congressmen, and U.S. information media.

ALGERIA

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER OF CUBA ARRIVES FOR TALKS

ID230040Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] Anillo Rene, first deputy foreign minister of Cuba, arrived in Algeria on 22 February. He was welcomed at Ad-Dar al-Bidha International Airport by the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry and the Cuban ambassador to Algeria.

Prepare for Havana Conference

FI271639Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Algeria and Cuba have held official talks in Algeria on bilateral relations and the nonalined countries movement. Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Rene Anillo and Algerian Foreign Affairs Ministry Secretary General (Insun Ossobin) dwelt on the preparations for the nonalined countries summit conference which will be held in Havana in August 1979.

FOREIGN GUESTS ARRIVE FOR SAHARA ANNIVERSARY MEETING

LD261745Y Algiers APS in French 1000 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] The first official delegations of nations and liberation movements arrived last night in the Saharan refugee camps to take part in the celebrations on the second anniversary of the proclamation of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] on 27 Feb 78. "Among these delegations were noted those of the People's Republic of Mozambique, of Guinea-Bissau, of Benin, of Timor, of the national Germany-Asia committee [as received] from the GDR, of the Communist Party of Greece (Interior), of France, of Guyana, of Switzerland, of Palestine [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine], of the (?Liberal) Party of Great Britain, as well as delegations of associations and movements of AAPSO, of the revolutionary Arab movement of the General Workers Union and the French Democratic Workers Union, of the General Federation of Belgian Workers, of the Belgian Socialist Party, of the Portuguese Communist Party, of the Italian Metalworkers Union, of the committees of support for the Saharan people, of Holland, of Belgium and of France."

The guests were received by several members of the SDAR Government as well as by members of the executive committee of the POLISARIO Front. "The SDAR Government in addition yesterday received two messages of support and congratulations from the Communist Party of Belgium and the Communist Party of Greece." About 50 delegations and about 100 representatives of the international press are expected to arrive. The French delegations included a number of religious and youth organization delegations. Mr Gilbert Julis, member of the Executive Commission of the General Workers Union [CGT] and head of the international department of this organization, spoke in the name of all the workers of France: It is with deep emotion that for the first time I meet on their own soil the fraternal and friendly people of the Western Sahara, a people in the midst of a struggle. The CGT, for its part, has sided wholeheartedly with the SDAR from the very start of its revolution. Since then our relations have strengthened. We stand on the side of the Saharan people for the right of self-determination and independence. The Moroccan workers in France, members of the CGT, who in the beginning had shown some hesitation, have in the meantime, as a result of having been better informed, rallied to the cause of the Saharan people."

LIBYA

LIBYAN-AFGAN COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED FOLLOWING DAUD'S VISIT

LD271514Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Joint communique issued in Tripoli and Kabul simultaneously at the end of Afgan President Daud's visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah]

[Text] Within the context of the development of the fraternal relations between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Afganistan, Afgan President Mohammad Daud paid an official, friendly visit to the Libya in the period between 25-27 February 1978. The guest and the delegation accompanying him were granted a warm reception which expressed the spirit of fraternity and affection between the fraternal Libyan and Afgan peoples. In an atmosphere of fraternity and understanding, important talks were held and they were led on the Libyan side by brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and on the Afgan side by President Mohammad Daud.

The following took part on the Libyan side: Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress; brother Taha ash-Sharif Ibn 'Amir, liaison secretary; brother Muhammad Abu al-Qasim Azzuwayyi, information secretary; brother Nuri al-Fayturi al-Madani, communications secretary; brother Musa 'Abu Furaywah, planning secretary; brother Fawzi as-Sasuki, under secretary of the Trade Secretariat; brother 'Isa al-B'ab'a, under secretary of the Foreign Secretariat; brother Al-Hadi al-Harik, Libyan Ambassador to Afghanistan; brother Salim 'Umaysh, director of the Research Administration; Brother Ibrahim 'Ali al-Jirbi, director of the Asian Administration; brother Abdallah Y'ali, director of the Legal Affairs Office; brother Ibrahim al-Bishari, director of Information Administration; brother 'Amir 'Isa Muhammad, advisor at the Asian Administration; brother 'Abdallah Jubran, director of External Cultural Relations Administration and the Education Secretariat; brother Fahim aj-Jirbi, head of cooperation office at th Cooperation Administration; Al-Mu'taz Billah Khalifah, from the Asian Affairs Administration; and brother Tahir 'Ali Marwan, also from the Asian Affairs Administration.

The Afgan side was represented by: Wafiyyollah Sam'i, minister of justice; Mohammad Khan Jalallar, minister of commerce; Wahid Abdollah, minister charge of foreign affairs; ('Abd as-Samad Ghosh), under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; (Pacha Gul Wandar), Afgan ambassador to Libya; ('Abd al-'Ali Sulayman), head of the treaties and legal affairs at the Foreign Ministry; (Mohammad Siddiq Saljuki), head of Second Political Desk at the Foreign Ministry; Mohammad Merza, head of the International Financial and Economic Relations at the Foreign Ministry; ('Abd al-Ahad Nasir Dia'i), head of Information Desk at the Foreign Ministry; (Ahmad Dia' Yusuf), director of research at the Foreign Ministry.

The two sides reviewed the development of bilateral fraternal relations and expressed their satisfaction with the level of these relations. They reiterated their true desire and intention to lead these relations for the good of the two friendly countries. They also affirmed the need for joint cooperation in all fields and the opening of new vistas for the development of this cooperation to satisfy the ambitions of the two fraternal peoples.

The two sides expressed their belief in the unity of the Arab nation stressing that it will lead to the bolstering of solidarity of the Islamic world. During their review of the situation in the Arab world, the two sides strongly denounced the Zionist aggression against the Arab nation. They expressed their confidence that true peace and security cannot prevail in the Arab area without the liberation of all the occupied territories. The two sides affirmed their support for the struggle of the Palestinian people led by the PLO as being the sole legitimate representative for the retrieval of the usurped territories and the establishment of their independent state.

In the African field the two sides strongly denounced the racist regimes in the African Continent--regimes which are in alliance with imperialism, colonialism and Zionism. They affirmed their support for the struggle of the African peoples in Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa for their freedom. The two sides denounced the racist collusion between the racist regimes in southern Africa and occupied Palestine. They expressed concern over the eruption of conflicts between some countries on the African Continent and called on the disputing parties to safeguard the continent's unity and cohesion and to find a solution to the problems by peaceful means.

The two sides expressed their appreciation for the role played by the nonalined movement in the struggle against imperialism and colonialism and for the strengthening of international peace and security. They consider the participation of this movement an important factor for the realization of good level of international relations. They affirmed the absolute right of the developing peoples to control their natural resources and wealth and the need for the consolidation of their efforts for the establishment of advanced international economic relations based on equality among all countries through a new and more equitable economic system leading to fruitful cooperation among all world peoples.

The two sides expressed their support for the idea of transforming the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. They denounce foreign naval and military rivalry in the area which threatens its security and stability. They declared their strong support for the efforts aimed at disarmament for the realization of welfare for the world. The two sides declared their adherance to the principles and objectives of the United Nations and referred to the positive role that organization plays in the consolidation of international peace and security. They reiterated their support for UN Resolution No 3379, branding Zionism as a form of racism.

Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi acquainted his brother President Mohammad Daud with the achievements of the Great 1 September revolution in the political, economic and social fields. He also acquainted him with the practical application of the principle of the people's exercise of direct democracy. President Mohammad Daud praised these achievements. President Mohammad Daud acquainted Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi with the progress and achievements of the July 1973 revolution of the Republic of Afghanistan. The brother colonel expressed his admiration for these achievements. During the visit, the minutes of an agreement were signed and two agreements for technical, cultural and economic were initialed. At the end of the visit President Mohammad Daud expressed his utmost gratitude to brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for the great welcome and hospitality shown him and the members of his delegation during their visit to Libya.

President Mohammad Daud invited borther Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to visit the Republic of Afghanistan. The invitation was gratefully accepted and a date will be fixed later.

JALLUD VISITS TURKEY FROM 22 TO 24 FEBRUARY

For Ankara Domestic Service reportage, JANA coverage of Jallud speech and Tripoli Domestic Service text of the joint Libyan-Turkish communique, see the Turkey section of the 28 February issue of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

AL-QADHDHAFI COMMENTS ON SOLUTION OF CHADIAN CONFLICT

LD251905Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi replied to a question from the press as he saw Chadian President Felix Malloum and Niger President Kountche off at Sabha International Airport this morning about what the Chadian people can expect from the Sabha summit conference. He said: God willing, they can expect peace and national unity and the rebuilding of Chad on the basis of equality between the north and the south and between all tribes and religions through the establishment of popular democracy in Chad, the elimination of the causes of the conflict and the realization and implementation of social justice. When these objectives are attained, guns will be turned into shovels for building and science. We have, he said, pledged with our neighbors in Chad to do all we can to help Chad to attain this dream for which the Chadian people have fought.

MAURITANIA

OULD DADDAH APPEALS TO ALGERIA TO HALT AGGRESSION

LD261514Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah has addressed a new appeal to the Algerian Government to put an end to its aggressions against Mauritania. In a speech today on the occasion of the second anniversary of national unity, Ould Daddah called on Algeria to work jointly with the other Arab Maghreb countries, Africa and the Arab world for building a future of peace and progress based on cooperation and mutual respect. He thanked the countries which responded to Mauritania's call for help to check the Algerian aggressions.

Thanks Morocco, France

LD271408Y Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] MAP, Nouakchott--On the occasion of the celebration of the second anniversary of national reunification, the president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania spoke to his people in a speech broadcast on the radio on Sunday. In this speech Mokhtar Ould Daddah expressed his profound thanks to Morocco and France for the assistance they give to Mauritania in order to allow it to defend its territorial integrity. He also stressed that the essential task of the moment remains the strengthening of the mobilization of the Mauritanian people in order to better insure the defense of the reunited fatherland, calling on his people to give greater sacrifices for the national cause.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI WARNS OF SOVIET INVASION IN HORN OF AFRICA

NC231104Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 23 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 23 February--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has emphasized that the current conflict in the Horn of Africa has exposed communist intentions to penetrate directly into the area.

He said that the events in the Horn of Africa comprise a direct and serious invasion and that the Soviet presence constitutes a danger to the whole area. President Numayri added: I have previously warned of the communist infiltration into the continent. This is not represented by infiltration by men but by direct invasion. It is a concentrated military invasion. The expansion of the conflict has led to instability in the area.

In a statement to AR-RIYAD, the Sudanese president said that the Arabs unanimously oppose attempts to fragment the area since this would be detrimental to the main objective--that is, the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the achievement of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri once again warned of the Soviet danger in the African Continent and the Soviet presence in the Horn of Africa and said that this threatens the whole area and jeopardizes our ideologies, religion, destiny and future. He added that the Soviet threat will turn this area in Africa which is close to the Arab world into an international conflict arena.

The Sudanese president said that his country is deploying its good offices to resolve the eruptive disputes in the Horn of Africa through dialog among all the parties in order to ward off the Soviet danger from the Horn of Africa.

On Arab solidarity, President Numayri said that Sudan will continue to work to consolidate Arab solidarity and to close Arab ranks. He described his discussion with King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and the crown prince as successful and fruitful.

SUDANESE-U.S. ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETS IN KHARTOUM

LD201958Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] Nasr ad-Din Mustafa, minister of national planning, presented to the joint Sudanese-American economic council at the friendship hall in Khartoum this morning a comprehensive exposition of the development efforts Sudan is making within the context of the 6-year plan and the major difficulties facing this plan.

His excellency referred to the huge development potential Sudan possesses, such as immense arable lands which have never been utilized, Sudan's vast animal and fish resources and the possibility of increasing the yield of these resources with sufficient care and planning. He also referred to Sudan's huge timber resources, especially in the southern region, which have not yet been exploited. [Word indistinct] mineral resources foretell a bright future in that area. His excellency also mentioned the leap forward and development in the public sector since 1970 and the positive role of the private sector during the last 2 years and its investment in the agricultural and industrial fields.

He then spoke about the role played by agriculture in Sudan and its being the backbone of the economy, and about Sudan's abundant resources in this field. He also touched on the industrial sector, which is principally engaged in the manufacture of sugar, cotton products, paints and cement, and processed foods. He spoke of the possibilities of developing this sector because of abundant local raw materials. He also referred to current prospecting for oil and other minerals.

SUDAN TO ATTEND RED SEA CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN HORN

LD212110Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD/EA

[Text] SUNA reports that the Democratic Republic of Sudan has agreed to attend the conference of the Red Sea littoral states which the YAR has taken the responsibility of convening to discuss developments in the Horn of Africa.

The Taiz Red Sea conference, attended by Sudan, Somalia and the two Yemens in March last year, decided to convene an expanded meeting of all Red Sea littoral states. Somalia and Djibouti have already approved the convening of the conference. Responses from other states are still awaited.

TUNISIA

NOUIRA AIDE VIEWS RECENT UNREST IN ADDRESS TO YOUTH

LD240819Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 17 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 LD

[Unattributed report on 16 February speech by Mohamed Sayah, director of the Destourian Socialist Party and minister-delegate attached to the prime minister, at a youth meeting in Tunis: "The Recent Events Were Part of a Real Plot To Destroy the State"]

[Excerpts] "The disturbances whipped up by a handful of misguided people on Thursday 26 January certainly caused considerable damage. Citizens were attacked and their property was ransacked and pillaged. Many business premises were vandalized. But, Mohamed Sayah stressed, "what is more serious than that is that these people tried to destroy the state and overthrow the government by these disturbances and by the climate of violence which they maintained in the preceding weeks. That is the extremely serious aspect of these events.

"Even after two decades of independence there are unfortunately some individuals who have a misguided concept of the notion of state which is a legacy from the days when our country was subjected to the yoke of foreign rule."

"These remarks are addressed mainly to those people who use the cover of democracy and liberty to try and lead others into subversive activities aimed at destroying the state or at least undermining its authority. They pretend not to realize that it is the state which protects freedom of opinion and guards against violence, be it verbal or physical. In any case verbal provocation always leads to violence."

In this respect the party director indicated that, despite efforts in training, there cannot be complete equivalence between training and the needs of the employment market. Therefore young people have to be realistic and consider the country's needs as much as their own abilities.

These, therefore, are some of the functions of the modern state. Any attempt to weaken or undermine its prestige or the image which the country has managed to give of itself with considerable effort, as was the case in recent weeks, would inevitably put an end to these functions.

Trying to destroy the state is the most serious and unforgiveable crime that can be committed against a people and a nation.

This is precisely what the country was exposed to by the plot hatched by a group of individuals having various contradictory political leanings but united by a single objective: the end of the state. That would have been a terrible catastrophe for all Tunisians, including those who got involved in the plot.

But young people seem to have been the main victims of this subversion. In fact it is young people who most need the services guaranteed by the state, such as education, job security and the certainty of a better standard of living.

"A man's home is his castle." We do not need foreign development schemes or ideologies. We do not believe in the inescapable class struggle or in Plato's ideal society or Marx's egalitarian society. We are conscious of the reality which such concepts hide.

Our strategy, while aiming to increase growth, is mainly concerned with the fairest possible distribution of the fruits of everyone's efforts, which benefits the poorest people most. This is why employment is the priority in all our development plans, for we believe a stable income is the prerequisite of a decent life.

This, therefore, is our party's policy. It is up to you to safeguard the achievements it has made possible.

Mr Sayah concluded by stressing that these events have brought people back to their senses. Their consciences have been aroused. We must now continue to act in accordance with Bourguiban ideology, which is above all an appeal to reason and a means of intellectual liberation.

NOUIRA COMMENTS ON MEETING WITH TRADE UNION LEADER

LD211832Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] Prime Minister Hedi Nouira has granted an interview to a number of representatives of the Arab information media in which he replied to a number of questions connected particularly with recent events in Tunisia. The prime minister spoke of the past and present visits in Tunisia to Otto Kersten, secretary general of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. During his meeting today with Kersten, the latter asked the prime minister if it was possible for him to see Habib Achour, the former secretary general of the Tunisian General Union of Labor, as he was told that Achour's health is deteriorating. The prime minister told Kersten that he would apply to the judiciary authorities with such a request. Nouira also granted interviews to West German television on the general situation in Tunisia following the events of 26 January and to Dutch radio and television on Tunisia's economic and social policy.

TUNISIA, LIBYA RATIFY CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT

LD271322Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] At 0900 today Foreign Minister Mohammed Fitouri and Libyan Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali at-Turayki exchanged the instruments of ratification of the agreement on the continental shelf in Tripoli. Fitouri returned to Tunis this morning from Tripoli after attending the OAU Foreign Ministers Conference and holding discussions with the Libyan officials led by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

WESTERN SAHARA

EL AAIUN ATTACKED TO CELEBRATE SDAR ANNIVERSARY

LD281000Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] Several Dozen official delegations and more than 310 guests took part yesterday in the celebrations marking the second anniversary of the proclamation of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR]. On the military field this important event was marked by a huge operation launched by Saharan fighters against the town of El Aaiun.

POST DISCUSSES ATHERTON EFFORT; DAYAN SPEECH; EGYPTIAN STANCE

TA280747Y Jerusalem POST in English 28 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[Text] With progress in the Atherton shuttle mission having slowed to a crawl, Israeli officials are insistently accusing Egypt of hardening its position and backing away from its earlier acceptance of moderate formulations. But other diplomatic sources question this assessment and maintain that the Egyptian stance remains more or less consistent.

U.S. roving mediator Alfred Atherton will fly to Cairo again this morning to present Israel's comments on the latest Egyptian draft for a "declaration of principles." Premier Menahem Begin indicated yesterday that Israel has rejected the Egyptian text on two crucial points: withdrawal and self-determination for the Palestinian Arabs. He said Israel would not accept as preconditions Egypt's demands for total withdrawal and for the creation of a Palestinian state.

Foreign Minister Dayan gave a sombre report last night on the state of the negotiations in a speech to the Zionist Congress. The talks were no longer about concrete peace proposals, he said, but about "very, very generalized semantic formulations." This was entirely because [illegible] had backed away from its initial desire to discuss practical peace proposals, Dayan said.

In the early contacts with Egypt, the foreign minister recalled, Israel had been asked to present its proposals "regarding every square meter of land in Sinai," and only "general formulae" regarding the issue of general Arab interest. Egypt had hinted that Israel should steer completely clear of the Golan Heights question in its proposals.

Since then the Egyptian attitude had undergone "a radical change for the worse." The result was that "today the discussions are solely on the Palestinian issue, which was to have been subsidiary, and all direct negotiations and negotiations on bilateral matters have ceased."

The reason was to be sought not in the Israeli settlements nor in Israel's demilitarization demands, but in Egypt's resolve "not to pursue negotiations alone."

Jordan, however, was refusing to join in unless Israel pledged in advance to withdraw totally from the West Bank, to approve a Palestinian Arab state if the Palestinians should so desire, and to permit a return of Arab refugees to pre-1967 Israel.

This extreme Egyptian intransigence was designed to avoid any accusation from Palestinian or other Arab quarters that Jordan was entering the negotiations without a valid mandate. If it secured all the Arab demands in advance, Amman apparently reasoned, it would not be faced with any such accusations.

Since Israel was rejecting these preconditions, Jordan was staying out--and so was Egypt.

This was the position, said Dayan, "at this stage, which I hope is not the last stage." He hoped and believed that the motives which had brought As-Sadat to come to Israel were still valid and would ultimately prevail on him to renew the process of direct and substantive negotiation between Cairo and Jerusalem; and if Jordan and Palestinian Arabs wanted to join, Israel would welcome them.

Other officials said that there had been a marked Egyptian hardening both on the withdrawal and the Palestinian aspects of a "declaration of principles." [paragraph continues]

On withdrawal, Egypt had been prepared, back in January, before the short-lived Jerusalem Political Committee was suspended, to make do with a formula akin to UN Security Council Resolution 242, which did not specify total withdrawal but was open to interpretation. On the Palestinian issue, President as-Sadat had stated publicly on January 4 that he would accept President Carter's "Aswan formula."

This calls for the Palestinian Arabs "to participate in the determination of their own future." It also speaks of the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians, and of their problem "in all its aspects." Israel has said it can accept the first phase but rejects the two others.

Today, the Israel officials said, Egypt was demanding formulations that specify total withdrawal and specify the Palestinian Arabs' sole right to decide their political future.

Other diplomatic sources have challenged this analysis, however, arguing that it takes things out of context. These sources say there was never any explicit Egyptian agreement to a vague, 242-like formula on withdrawal as part of the "declaration of principles." They say that the negotiations never focused on this issue--and hence the Egyptian position was never clearly enunciated.

And regarding the Palestinian issue these diplomatic sources said that As-Sadat's initial acceptance of the Aswan formula had been conditional upon Israel's acceptance of it too. He had seen it as a compromise, a far cry from his demand for Palestinian "self-determination." He later felt that Israel was in effect treating it as a basis for further negotiation--and thus he himself had reverted to an opening negotiating position.

Observers said that Atherton would continue to shuttle until shortly before Begin's visit to Washington in mid-March. Possibly he would introduce American proposals just before that, with a view to their being discussed at greater length by Begin, Dayan and Defense Minister Weizman at the White House and the State Department.

There is a general feeling in Jerusalem that no momentous progress can in fact be expected before the Washington visit.

Atherton is to return here on Thursday, and to visit Jordan on Friday.

DIRECTOR OF BEGIN'S OFFICE RAPS U.S. STANCE ON EGYPT TALKS

TA271645Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 27 Feb 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Director General of the Prime Minister's Office Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar said today that it was the U.S. attitude which caused the recent intransigence of the Egyptians. Dr Ben-Elisar also stressed that the United States and Egypt are mistaken if they think that we could agree to things that do not conform with Israel's security needs. Zevi Tal has the following excerpt from the statement by the director general of the prime minister's office: [begin recording]

[Ben-Elisar] The Americans, by adopting an attitude which appears, at least, as onesided, contribute to that side's intransigence. This is happening today in the negotiations between us and the Egyptians. When we see that the Egyptians are retreating from ideas and positions which they had expressed and presented, and they begin to become tougher and more severe as far as we are concerned, there can be no other cause than their expectation that the Americans will force us to accept. They and the Americans--if they think so--are mistaken, both of them.

We shall not accept things which we are unable to accept. We cannot accept things we think will endanger our future and Israel's security. [end recording]

The director general of the prime minister's office, today, at the Businessmen's Association Club in Haifa.

JERUSALEM FEARS ASWAN FORMULA COMPROMISE ATTEMPT

TA2711315Y Tel Aviv HA'ARES in Hebrew 27 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Ussi Benziman]

[Excerpts] Fear was expressed in Jerusalem yesterday that the United States, through Alfred Atherton, will submit President Carter's Aswan declaration, which is unacceptable to Israel, as a compromise formula between the Israeli proposal for a declaration of principles and the Egyptian proposal submitted the day before yesterday which manifests a significant hardening compared to previous formulas discussed between Jerusalem and Washington which appeared to be acceptable to Cairo.

It was assessed in Jerusalem yesterday that Israel might soon find itself in a confrontation with the United States on its positions in the negotiations. Washington knows Egypt's positions in the negotiations, including its backing down from previous positions and the breaking off of contacts in the Political Committee; however, it might stand against Israel because, basically, its positions are closer to those of Cairo.

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan made significant efforts in the United States to convince the administration and the communications media of the turnaround in the Egyptian positions and their decisive influence on the difficulties in the negotiations. He fought against the administration's tendency to present the settlement issue as being central in creating difficulties in the Israel-Egypt contacts.

UN ENVOY: EGYPT PEACE TREATY NOT TOO IMPORTANT NOW

TA272102Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Israel's UN ambassador, Hayyim Herzog, believes a peace agreement between Israel and Egypt is not overly important because of the deep controversy which now prevails among the Arab countries. Herzog says the rift in the Arab world was and remains the main problem in the efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Hayyim Herzog made the statement last night, speaking to students at an Arizona University.

CABINET DECISION ELICITS COMMENT FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS

MA'ARIV Dissatisfied

TA271125Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Feb 78 TA

[Review of afternoon press editorials]

[Excerpt] MA'ARIV maintains that following the government's decision on the settlements issue the unhealthy situation, in which no one knows what the government's policy on this issue is, will continue. No one can understand why we are continuing to invest huge sums of money in areas which, it has been agreed, are to be returned to Egyptian sovereignty. An ugly atmosphere has arisen around the settlements problem and this is seriously damaging Israel's image in the eyes of the world. U.S. Jewry is complaining that it cannot explain the government's policy because it does not understand it. Israeli Jews do not understand what direction their government is taking, MA'ARIV writes.

'Uzzi Benziman Comment

TA271216Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 27 Feb 78 p 1 TA

['Uzzi Benziman commentary]

[Text] Yesterday's cabinet decision on the settlements issue manifests a strong position to which all cabinet members are partners: This government has no intention of letting the Israeli settlements in the Rafah approaches degenerate, nor does it intend to dismantle them.

Recently, the prime minister stated that an Israeli willingness to concede on the settlement in Sinai would serve as a farreaching precedent: Whoever agrees to remove the settlements in Sinai will one day be asked to remove the settlements in Judaea and Samaria and the Golan Heights and might, perhaps, have to concede on an Israeli presence in East Jerusalem. The decision shows that no member of the cabinet is prepared to support a move which might have such results.

The decision also manifests the cabinet's awareness that it is not the settlements that are causing difficulties in the negotiations but a backing down in Egyptian positions. At the same time, the decision shows a tendency to appease those ministers who claim that any stumbling block in the negotiations should be removed. It is known that among the cabinet members there are those who claim that the various expansion operations in the Rafah approaches and the archeological team in Shilo cast a shadow over Israel's position in U.S. public opinion. Thus, despite the aggressive appearance of yesterday's cabinet decision it displays a willingness to play the good boy as long as active negotiations are going on.

The cabinet decision not to alter its previous decisions on the settlement issue means:

Begin's and Weizman's decisions, which retroactively received cabinet approval, to freeze all ground work in the Rafah approaches including work aimed at expanding the cultivation plots of the existing settlements remain valid.

The cabinet decision maintaining that no settlements will be established in the Rafah approaches remains valid (including settlements slated to break ground in accordance with decisions of the Rabin cabinet).

The cabinet decision to remove the six water towers set up forward of the Rafah approaches remains valid.

The cabinet decision to set up two more settlements in the West Bank remains valid. These settlements (Tapu'ah and Silat A) will be established in military camps.

The cabinet's decision that the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs is not authorized to decide on the establishment of new settlements without cabinet approval remains valid.

Yesterday's cabinet decision is only temporary and does not mean that in the future the cabinet will not take new decisions in the settlements sphere.

There is another aspect to the cabinet's decisions: It is no secret that its members differ over the settlements issue. They all agree that existing settlements should not be removed, but they differ about future settlement plans. The dispute within the cabinet on these issues is tense and brings to mind the more unpleasant days of the Rabin cabinet.

TABRIZ RIOTING CALLED PREMEDITATED WITH OUTSIDE HELP

LD241313Y Teheran PARS in English 1200 GMT 24 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--[Words indistinct] on February 23, the English language morning newspaper KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL reports that the rioter in Tabriz [word indistinct] deliberately planned their hooliganism in a way to inflict damage to individual citizens, to public institutions, welfare establishments and the economic lifeline of the city. The rioting was by no means a sudden expression of anger, it was a premeditated, indeed a murderous, attempt to disrupt life in a city which throughout the long history of Iran has proved to be a bastion of struggle against foreign domination.

It is now time to commend the people of Tabriz for their ardent bravery in standing up against the guns. It is a measure of the stamina and dynamism of the Tabriz people that soon after the restoration of order they began to repair damage, to speedily bring life to its normal pace and to clean up the mess which the hooligans left behind. It is in the nature of the Tabrizis never to show any indecisiveness, never to despair but always to look forward and go ahead against the difficulties. The question is, however, why the hooligans chose targets which were so sensitive.

One need not look far for reasons to find out why they did so. They were no doubt carrying out an assignment to damage every symbol of progress and prosperity in Tabriz and they had chosen that city as an example. They were, therefore, against seeing an Iranian city having institutions of higher education, welfare and progress. They were also against the city's economic development. By any yardstick the hooligans who converged on Tabriz were public enemies. It really does not matter whether they acted on their own or they were inspired or paid by some outside powers to do so. The fact is that they were enemies of the nation. Yet, there are outside elements who have shown their enmity to Iran's fast development. These outsiders might have been driven towards enmity with Iran because of outright jealousy.

Small nations may also embark on foreign adventurism as surrogates for [illegible] wers. Whatever the motives, we are unfortunately witness these days to all [illegible]s of organised terrorism which cross international boundaries. That makes the task of guarding against terrorism even more difficult. We in Iran have had the benefit of continued stability, security and prosperity. That is why an ugly incident like what happened in Tabriz comes as a shock to us. But we are pledged to keep our security and prosperity and therefore we must do everything in our power not to allow such incidents to happen again.

RASTAKHIZ Comments

LD261452Y Teheran PARS in English 1100 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

["The Lesson of Tabriz"--PARS headline]

[Text] Teheran, 26 Feb PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--In its front page comment RASTAKHIZ Thursday said that although the Tabriz riots had upset all Iranians and aroused their hatred, they had provided a case where the goals and intentions of the red and black reactionaries could be contrasted with the achievements of the shah-people revolution. The fact that these hooligans, who are the agents of foreign powers, timed their action to coincide with publication of his imperial majesty's latest book, "Towards the Great Civilisation" is very significant, observed RASTAKHIZ.

The great civilization which leads the country towards prosperity and well-being is the future goal and hope of the Iranian nation and the Iranian revolution. It is obvious those who are against the well-being and progress of Iran are opponents of the great civilization as well as the Iranian revolution. Those who are enemies of Iran show their reaction at different times and in different ways. The achievements of the revolution which include social justice, political participation, self rule, industrial and cultural developments, national independence have enabled Iran to become an influential power.

In RASTAKHIZ's opinion one of the main characteristics of the revolution and the great civilization is, which is a fundamental feature of the Iranian monarchy. [sentence as received] Iranian democracy is the outcome of the unity of the shah and the people, that is to say the shah and the people share the same goals and desires. Iranians regard the shah as the father of their national family, RASTAKHIZ says. The principles of the revolution were approved by all the people in a referendum. Therefore, the nation has joined its great leader on the road towards the great civilization. What our great leader (?has) for Iran and Iranians is the combination of material progress with spiritual values. On the other hand, what the misguided (?barking) dogs of black and red imperialism want is nothing but regression and backwardness. Their attack on public properties and facilities is a proof of this fact, writes RASTAKHIZ. By setting fire to public properties and creating destruction these people want to burn the exceptional achievements of our revolution and take the country back to the dark years. After comparing the aims of these hooligans with the achievements of our revolution, the Iranian nation has decided to remain solid and unified, concludes the article.

Officials To Be Tried

LD261120Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 26 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Following the report of the board of inquiry to the shah on the rioting in Tabriz, a royal order has been issued to the effect that the officials who failed to anticipate the rioting in Tabriz and thus prevent it should be punished and legal proceedings brought against them.

Police Chief Disciplined

LD281125Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 28 Feb 78 LD

[Text] According to a PARS NEWS AGENCY report, the Imperial Police Headquarters reported today that, in implementing the shah's decree to punish officials considered to have been neglectful in their duty in the report of the committee of inquiry into the recent incidents in Tabriz, the chief of police of Eastern Azerbaijan Province has been summoned to Teheran and handed over to the five-man commission of the Imperial Armed Forces. The head of the executive department of the Eastern Azerbaijan Police Headquarters has been suspended for 3 months and removed from office. The head of Tabriz Police Station No 6 has also been reprimanded for (?contempt) of the general order decree of the Imperial Armed Forces. He has been removed from office and transferred from Tabriz.

INDIA

VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

BK251618Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1607 GMT 25 Feb 78 BK

[Excerpts] New Delhi Feb 25 (AFP)--Visiting Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong said here today that his country's relations with China were "good" and denied that radio Hanoi had accused Peking of backing Phnom Penh in the Vietnamese-Cambodian border conflict.

Mr Pham who arrived here yesterday for a week-long visit to India, spoke at a press conference capping a round of talks with Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai.

He expressed confidence that Vietnam's "principled stand" on the dispute with Cambodia would result in an end to the fighting.

"No doubt this stand will bring about a success for our cause. It will be a victory of the friendship between the peoples of Vietnam and Cambodia and of their just cause," he said.

Mr Pham also described India's policy of using atomic energy for peaceful purposes as "a correct one" and which "deserves to be supported."

He was reported to have received an Indian offer of nuclear cooperation.

The Vietnamese premier said that his country would need some 7 to 10 billion dollars in the next 5 years for reconstruction work and added that although giving priority to self-reliance, it would seek aid from any quarter.

Asked about the U.S. pledge of aid to pay for the war damages American troops caused in Vietnam, Mr Pham said that "this matter is advancing gradually toward a better position" and called for efforts on both sides to settle the issue.

Attends Delhi Meeting

OW271541Y Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 27 Feb 78 OW

[Text] Four thousand people attended a meeting in New Delhi Sunday afternoon in honor of the visiting Vietnamese leader, Premier Pham Van Dong. Representatives of the New Delhi People's Council, the New Delhi Administrative Council, members of the Parliament, high-ranking government officials, representatives of the city's population and members of the diplomatic corps attended the meeting.

Everyone stood up and gave a long applause when Prime Minister Morarji Desai, Mayor of New Delhi R.K. Gupta and Deputy Mayor M.L. Sabri accompanied Premier Pham Van Dong to the rostrum. Other Indian officials in the presidium were Somarendra Kundu, minister of state for external affairs, and M.R. Sivaramakrishnan, Indian ambassador to Vietnam.

On the Vietnamese side were Dang Viet Chau, minister for foreign trade; Nguyen Co Thach, deputy foreign minister; Vu Quoc Uy, acting head of the Commission for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and Vietnamese Ambassador to India Nguyen Van Sinh.

The mayor of New Delhi welcomed Premier Pham Van Dong in a traditional manner with a garland of flowers.

After the mayor delivered the opening speech, Prime Minister Morarji Desai welcomed the visitors. He said: The name Vietnam strikes a cord with our people. During your entire protracted struggle for national liberation, the Delhi people on many occasions expressed their support and solidarity with the Vietnamese people. The citizens of New Delhi also shared your wish for liberation. Now they share with you the hope and desire for national rehabilitation and reconstruction. Your struggle for freedom and national reconstruction has won the heartfelt sympathy of the Indian people, and this is no surprise. I believe that your country has a glorious future since Vietnam has rich natural resources and its nation imbued with patriotism and capable of making boundless sacrifices.

Prime Minister Morarji Desai continued: I welcome broader contacts between India and Vietnam in order to learn from your experience, your example of devotion and industrious labor.

Premier Pham Van Dong replied receiving resounding applause and cheers. He said: I take this opportunity to fulfill late President Ho Chi Minh's wish to express to our Indian friends, the present and absent, the sincere and profound gratitude of the Vietnamese people. After praising the age-old Indian civilization, Premier Pham Van Dong continued: The Vietnamese and Indian peoples may be proud of their clear, peaceful and friendly relations which have bound the two nations during the last 20 centuries. The friendly relations of cooperation between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of India is being consolidated day by day. India is helping us in agriculture, stockbreeding, industry, transport and technology and exchanging experiences with us in various domains. Visiting India this time, we signed with the Government of the Republic of India a number of agreements on cooperation in economic, cultural and technological fields, opening fine prospects for the friendly relation of cooperation between our two countries.

Premier Pham Van Dong continued: We are very proud of the fact that the centuries old relation between us has always been clear.

Premier Pham Van Dong presented the people of New Delhi with an embroidery inscribed with the words "long live the friendship between the peoples of Vietnam and India" in both Vietnamese and Hindi.

Indian dancers performing some traditional dances concluded the meeting. Premier Pham Van Dong left the rostrum amidst spontaneous cheers of "long live Vietnam, long live Vietnam-India friendship."

The same afternoon, Premier Pham Van Dong visited the Vietnamese Embassy in New Delhi. The premier urged the embassy staff to make all-out efforts to fulfill the embassy's tasks, consolidate friendly relations with the Indian Government and people and contribute to the building of socialism at home.

Desai, Pham Speeches

BK271123Y Delhi ISI in English 0850 GMT 27 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Speaking at the civil reception held in honour of the prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, H.E. Pham Van Dong, in New Delhi on February 26 the Prime Minister Morarji Desai said that it was the common responsibility of the leadership in developing countries to ensure that the gains of development and fruits of technology were shared by all sections of society. Desai said that the people of India would be happy to join hands with the people of Vietnam in whatever way they could to make a humble contribution to the national reconstruction of that country.

Following is the text of the prime minister's speech:

I am happy to join the citizens of Delhi in welcoming you, Prime Minister, and your colleagues to this city in which history both past and present is written in practically every nook and corner. Its origin goes back to the ancient past and it has passed through many a vicissitude of fortune, but every time it has remarkably risen in all its glory and splendour.

Excellency, Vietnam is a name which has a charm of its own for our people. During your long struggle for the liberation of your country, the people of Delhi on many occasions expressed their support and their solidarity with the friendly people of Vietnam. Its citizens have shared with you your aspirations for liberation and emancipation. They share with you now your natural desire for rehabilitation and reconstruction. That your struggle for freedom and reconstruction should have touched a sympathetic chord in the hearts of the people of India is not a matter of surprise. Our ancient culture lays great stress on the dignity of man, on unity in diversity and on the principle of "live and let live." Instinctively we reject force and compulsion and any attempt at imposition or dominance or even at creating artificial uniformity. We believe in freedom and in friendship among nations based on peaceful coexistence. But we also believe that all mankind is one family and international relations should therefore be guided by the vision of one world free from colonial exploitation, racial discrimination and economic disparities.

Today, almost all of Asia and Africa is free and they are devoting their energies to the noble task of nationbuilding. What can be nobler than the removal of poverty, which debases man and robs him of his dignity, and the elimination of disparity, which divides society into classes, into those who have and those who have not? It is indeed the common responsibility of the national leadership of the developing countries to ensure that the gains of development and the fruits of technology are shared by all sections of society and that all have equal opportunities to make their mark in life.

In our country, we have made some progress in this direction, but much remains to be done. We have to act with greater vigour and learn from our mistakes. After the new government came to power we have reviewed our national strategy for economic development. Our objective is to banish poverty and ensure all-round progress towards a welfare state. What is more, we have attuned our policies to the demand for reorientation to the needs of our rural areas in which most of our people labour and live. From what I have heard and read about Vietnam, I know that your leadership, dedicated and determined as it is, shares the difficulties in the same spirit with your people.

I am confident that your country, endowed as it is with vast natural resources, and your people, whose patriotism and capacity for sacrifice knows no bounds, have a glorious future. Both our countries are basically agricultural and we are both laying stress on agriculture, on mass education and on gainful employment for our peoples. Our people not only wish you well, but will be happy to join hands with you in whatever way they can to make a humble contribution to the national reconstruction your government is engaged in. I would personally welcome more contacts between India and Vietnam so that we can learn from your experience and from your example of dedication and hard work.

Excellency, the citizens of Delhi are aware of your personal involvement in the Vietnamese struggle for freedom and of the long imprisonment you suffered at the hands of the colonial power. This reminds us of the long years passed by our national leaders in prison. The Vietnamese people are indeed fortunate at having at the helm of their government a leader of your simple habits and disciplined life, of your dedication and vision.

With these words, I join the citizens of Delhi in welcoming Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Pham Van Dong, on behalf of the government and people of India to this civic reception.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vietnamese prime minister said:

Your Excellency, dear Indian friends, ladies and gentlemen:

We are elated and deeply moved to have the opportunity to join with your [as received] Indian friends at this mass rally today in such an atmosphere of jubilation, to be in the beautiful capital of New Delhi with the representatives of over 600 million Indian brothers and sisters who have continuously and persistently stood at the side of the Vietnamese people in their protracted and hard struggle for independence and freedom. Today, aggressors no longer tread on Vietnamese soil, our fatherland is completely independent and unified. May I avail myself on this solemn occasion to realise the last wish of our late President Ho Chi Minh to express to our Indian friends, whether they be present here today or not, the sincere and profound gratitude of the Vietnamese people.

Dear Indian friends, 23 years ago, I was fortunate to have a chance to visit India, an unforgettable visit which has left me deeply impressed by Indian civilisation, one of the most brilliant civilisations in human history. Throughout the 5,000 years of Indian history, this civilisation has unceasingly absorbed the quintessence of other cultural trends and maintained its national character. Talented and creative Indian people have contributed to the cultural treasure of mankinds outstanding works of philosophy, literature, art, science and technology, from the discoveries of Indian astronomy 3,000 years ago to the inventions by Indian scientists Raman and Bhabha, from immortal epics of the pre-Christian era to the works pervaded with humanity penned by Rabindranath Tagore at the beginning of this century. This glorious national tradition was a source of strength for the struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi involving hundreds of millions of Indians, a struggle that shook colonialist rule led to the founding of the Republic of India.

Inheriting such a glorious past and being today the true masters of a state the size of a continent with a population of one-seventh of mankind, the Indian people will surely record increasingly brilliant achievements in the building of a prosperous and powerful Republic of India. Visiting India again this time and seeing with my own eyes the gains scored through the fulfillment of your 5-year plans of economic construction and cultural development, we wish to warmly congratulate you on the big advances made by India since she became independent. The green revolution in agriculture has doubled food production, your diversified industry has not [as received] domestic requirements for the greater part of goods and constitutes an increasingly important source of exports of great value on the international market, your science and technology have caught up with those of developed countries and reached the peaks in some key branches.

These achievements raise India's international position even higher, provide a basis for India to promote the policy of peace, friendship and cooperation and the policy of nonalignment that she has persistently pursued over the past 30 years, and constitute a strong encouragement for the people's struggle for peace, independence, democracy and social progress.

Dear friends,

Like the Indian people, we Vietnamese have also inherited a long-standing culture indelibly stamped with a national character. This is an important factor that helped unite the Vietnamese people in their struggle for national construction and defence. While the patriotic movement surged throughout India in response to Mahatma Gandhi's call, the Vietnamese people under President Ho Chi Minh's national salvation banner rose up against colonialism and brought the August 1945 revolution to success throughout the country, which led to the founding of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. And as you all know, immediately thereafter and throughout the following 30 years, the Vietnamese people took up arms and waged a patriotic war against foreign aggression. Responding to President Ho Chi Minh's call--"nothing is more precious than independence and freedom"--our people united millions as one and brought the nation's tradition of heroism and dauntlessness to bear. We united closely and fought in coordination with the Lao and the Kampuchean peoples. We enjoyed the sympathy and broad support of brothers and friends the world over and, in spite of immense sacrifices, we became stronger the more we fought. We recorded even greater successes and won final victory in the spring of 1975. The long process of this hard struggle has cemented the three peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea with blood. The more we Vietnamese people cherish our independence and freedom, the more we respect the independence and freedom of these two fraternal neighbour countries as well as that of other nations, the stronger is our resolve to fulfil our international duties joining the other nonaligned countries and progressive forces in the world in the struggle for the complete independence and freedom of all nations.

The friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and India have had positive affects on international activities, first of all in the nonaligned movement of which India is an initiator and to which it made important contributions from the outset. As His Excellency Prime Minister Morarji Desai put it at the ministerial conference of the coordinating bureau of nonaligned countries held in New Delhi in April 1977, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and other Indian leaders held that India's freedom "would not be secure until the torch of freedom had been lit in so many lands which were under foreign rule." India considers it "her duty and national interests to join in the struggle against colonialism, imperialism and racial discrimination in every possible international form." Motivated by these lofty ideas, India made an important contribution to the historic success of the Bandung conference at which the strong nonaligned movement of today was born.

More than ever, the resounding call for unity at the Colombo summit conference now has great practical significance. Our strength lies in our unity. Unity in each country will bring that country's own strength into full play. Unity among nonaligned countries and developing countries, unity with world forces of progress and socialism will increase our capability to safeguard independence, build the economy, develop culture and together settle in a satisfactory way any dispute stemming from whatever cause. This is the necessary trend and dynamism of the nonaligned countries which are fighting for their vital interests and gradually advancing towards the great objective of the movement, that is, the establishment of a new international economic order. This trend, which was clearly defined in Colombo and asserted at the ministerial conference of nonaligned countries in New Delhi with India as the host country, will certainly be promoted at the ministerial conference in Kabul and the summit conference of the nonaligned movement in Havana next year.

In the common cause of the nonaligned movement, India and Vietnam hold very important positions. Relations between Vietnam and India reflect the correct relationship among nonaligned countries. That is why the friendly cooperation between Vietnam and India is all the more significant far beyond the boundaries of the two countries.

Agreements Signed

BK271336Y Delhi ISI in English 0835 GMT 27 Feb 78 BK

[Text] During the visit of His Excellency Pham Van Dong, premier of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the following agreements were signed between India and Vietnam in New Delhi on February 26:

The agreement for cooperation in the field of agricultural research: This agreement was signed on the Indian side by Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation S.S. Barnala and on the Vietnamese side by the minister of foreign trade, H.E. Dang Viet Chau.

The agreement envisages cooperation in agricultural research, education training and production techniques through an exchange of scientists, literature and the import and export of equipment on the basis of work plans to be drawn up by the two sides.

Credit agreement: This agreement was signed on the Indian side by the minister of finance, H.M. Patel and on the Vietnamese side by the minister of foreign trade, Dang Viet Chau.

Under this agreement, India will give a credit of 100 million rupees to Vietnam for the purchase or railway equipment and such other goods as may be mutually agreed upon. A part of this credit will also be utilised to import livestock from India. The credit carries an interest rate of 5 percent and repayments, spread over 10 years, will commence from 1982.

The agreement for cooperation in science and technology: This agreement was signed on the Indian side by the minister of external affairs, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and on the Vietnamese side by the minister of foreign trade, Dang Viet Chau.

The agreement envisages cooperation in science and technology through an exchange of scientists, specialists and scientific information et cetera. It also has the provision for joint research on problems of common interest to both sides. Under this agreement the two countries may also exchange licences and patents.

The trade and economic agreement between India and Socialist Republic of Vietnam:

India and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam concluded in New Delhi on February 26 a new trade and economic cooperation agreement. Mohan Dharia, the minister of commerce, civil supplies and cooperation and Dang Viet Chau, the minister of foreign trade, signed the agreement for the two governments respectively in the presence of their prime ministers.

Under the agreement, the contracting parties shall accord each other the most favoured nation treatment in all matters relating to trade between the two countries. All payments between the two countries shall be effected in freely convertible currency. The agreement incorporates two indicative lists of commodities available for export from the two countries. Among the items of export from India are locomotives, coaches and bogies, agricultural machinery, pharmaceutical products, electrical appliances and electrical wires and cables, and pig iron steel and products thereof; and those from Vietnam, rice, vegetable oils, apatite and oil seeds.

The agreement provides for the promotion of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries and for this purpose envisages the encouragement of mutually agreed schemes and the exchange of technical know-how, skilled personnel and technical trainees.

The agreement will be valid for a period of 3 years with the provision of automatic extension by 1 year at a time, unless either contracting party gives a notice in writing 3 months before the expiry of the periods of its intention to terminate the agreement. There will be mutual consultations with each other as and when necessary to review the working of the agreement.

After the reunification of Vietnam the question of placing the trade and economic relationship between India and Vietnam on a more sound footing has been under the consideration of the two governments for some time. This was discussed in detail during the visits of the Vietnamese economic delegation to India in August-September 1977 and the Indian economic delegation to Vietnam in February 1978. The present agreement concluded in New Delhi on February 26 is the culmination of these efforts.

The cultural exchange programme signed with Vietnam:

The first cultural exchange programme between India and Socialist Republic of Vietnam was signed in New Delhi on February 26. P. Sabanayagam, secretary, the Ministry of Education, Social Welfare and Culture and H.E. Vu Quoc Uy. acting president of the Commission for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, signed the agreement on behalf of the two countries.

Under the cultural exchange programme both countries will exchange visits by educational experts, archaeologists, cultural troupes, journalists and sports teams.

Besides finalising the facilities which may be provided to the students of each other's country, educational experts will also examine the question of establishing the equivalence of the degrees and diplomas awarded by higher institutions of the two countries.

The two sides will also encourage their respective radio and television stations for exchanging gramophone records, musical compositions, television films and news bulletins. The national libraries of India and Vietnam will exchange books on science and art besides other publications.

Speaking on the occasion, Sabanayagam expressed his hope that the agreement would further strengthen the areas of cooperation between the two friendly countries. The cultural ties between India and Vietnam that were established since ancient times would be further strengthened, he felt.

Vu Quoc Uy pointed out that the agreement assumed greater importance as it had been signed during the current visit of the premier of his country to India.

Sabanayagam presented a plastic cast of Goddess Ganges to the visiting dignitary.

USSR'S ARKHIPOV ARRIVES FOR JOINT COMMISSION MEETING

BK250905Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The Soviet deputy prime minister, Mr Ivan Arkhipov, arrived in New Delhi today to head his country's delegation at the fourth meeting of the Indian-Soviet joint economic commission. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation consisting of several ministers and top officials.

Visits Bokaro Mills

BK270921Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The president, Mr Sanjeeva Reddy, has stressed the need for making people feel a sense of participation in the national economy. He was addressing a public meeting at Bokaro organized on the occasion of the commissioning of the third blast furnace of the steel plant.

Speaking at the meeting, the vice chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, Mr Arkhipov, expressed the hope that the cooperation between the two countries will increase.

The president has since returned to New Delhi.

PAKISTAN

ZIAUL HAQ REITERATES PROMISE TO HOLD ELECTIONS

BK241105Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Feb 78 BK

[Excerpts] The chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said that the government will hold elections as promised when he and his colleagues are fully convinced that their results would be positive. He was addressing notables in Siddi [in Baluchistan] this afternoon. The acting governor of Baluchistan, Mr Kuda Baksh Mari, earlier presented an address of welcome.

The chief martial law administrator said that God Almighty had provided him and his colleagues the opportunity to clear the body politic of Pakistan. It was their firm conviction that unless society was put on a sound footing, it would be futile to hold elections. He reiterated that he was not aspiring for any political office and would, God willing, hold elections as promised, but at the appropriate time. He said that when they handed over power to the political government, they should also be subjected to accountability, and if found guilty they should be awarded double the punishment given to the politicians.

He pointed out that with the disbanding of the Hyderabad tribunal, all the 35 accused belonging to Baluchistan were released unconditionally. Also, a general amnesty was granted to those who had taken to the mountains. He said it was now their duty to come forward and help the government in building up the province and the country. He regretted that certain unpleasant events had taken place in the province even after the general amnesty and the withdrawal of the Hyderabad case. He expressed the hope that the past would be forgotten and everyone would take part in the development of the province with an open heart.

The chief martial law administrator announced further concessions for certain members of the Mari tribe who were involved in certain cases, including explosions. He said that those who had been sentenced to imprisonment would be released, that all pending cases in the courts would be withdrawn and that those against whom there was no criminal case would be pardoned.

PRC FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION CALLS ON PRESIDENT

BK251644Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries called on President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry in Lahore today. The president said it was always a pleasure for the people and Government of Pakistan to welcome friends from their great neighbor country, the PRC. He spoke of the very close and cordial relations between the two countries and expressed the hope that friendly ties between them would grow further.

Reciprocating similar sentiments, the Chinese delegation leader, Mr Wang Ping-nan, said the two countries have always helped and sympathized with each other. He said the delegation was greatly impressed by the deep sentiments of love and friendship held by the Pakistani people for their Chinese brothers.

The delegation attended a citizen's reception in the afternoon. Replying to the address of welcome, the leader of the Chinese delegation reiterated that China would always stand by Pakistan in every situation and it would prove itself a dependable ally.

Earlier the delegation visited the Badshawi Mosque, the Monument of Allama Iqbal and the Lahore Fort. The delegation praised the beauty of the historical monuments.

Visits Khyber Pass Region

BK241504Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 24 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The eight-member delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries today visited the Khyber Pass and Torkham to see the Pak-Afgan border. Recording his impression in the visitors book at the Pak-Afgan border, the leader of the delegation, Mr Wang Ping-nan, said that both Pakistan and Afghanistan are our friendly neighbors, and the boundary is a line of friendship.

On their way back to Peshawar, the delegation met some notables at the Khyber agency. The women members of the delegation met tribal women and exchanged gifts.

The Chinese ambassador in Pakistan was also with the delegation.

Continues Visit

BK241506Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0930 GMT 24 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The leader of the visiting delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Mr Wang Ping-nan, has said Pakistan and China have always supported each other in their national struggles. Speaking at a dinner hosted in Peshawar by the acting governor of the frontier province, Mr Justice Abdul Hakim Khan, he said that Sino-Pakistani friendship has passed through many tests and had proved to be very strong.

The Chinese delegation also visited the heavy mechanical complex, heavy forge and foundry at Taxila.

SOMALI INFORMATION MINISTER LEAVES FOR PEKING

BK261725Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The visiting Somali information minister, Mr Abdi Kassim Salad, has expressed his country's concern about the involvement of big powers in the African affairs. Talking informally to newsmen in Rawalpindi before his departure for Peking tonight, he said the Somali people are determined to defend their integrity, to uphold the struggle for self-determination of the Somali people in the Ogaden region.

Explaining [words indistinct] of the African movement in the area and the military situation obtaining in the Horn of Africa, he said Somalia seeks a peaceful solution of the dispute in the African context.

About his visit to Pakistan, he said the Somali Democratic Republic and Pakistan have fraternal relations and they witnessed ample proof of this friendly attitude of the Pakistan Government and people during their short stay in Karachi and Rawalpindi. He thanked the government and the people of Pakistan for the warm welcome accorded to them.

EXILES RETURN FROM AFGHANISTAN UNDER AMNESTY PLAN

BK270931Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 27 Feb 78 BK

[Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, a group of 30 persons, who had crossed into Afghanistan during the past government's rule, have returned to Pakistan after 4 years of self-imposed exile. They have come back to the homeland after the announcement of a general amnesty by the chief martial law administrator.

SRI LANKA

RANASINGHE COMMENTS ON PLOT AGAINST GOVERNMENT

BK241549Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1530 GMT 24 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, Feb. 24 (AFP)--Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa told parliament today there was a plot by certain discredited political groups to come to power over the dead bodies of innocent school children.

He said a part of the plot was to call out a strike of students, unleash violence, rouse communal passions and in the ensuing chaos to kill some of the children. Mr. Premadasa said prompt action taken by the government to close schools throughout the country yesterday and today had foiled this sinister plot.

The prime minister said he did not want to disclose the political groups involved as some persons had already been arrested and placed in remand custody.

Police said five persons had been arrested and remanded for inciting students and rousing communal feelings.

Among those remanded were Dr. Nath Amerakone, a former secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Construction in the previous government of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, and V.W. Kularatne, an attorney-at-law, who was appointed by the previous government to inquire into ragging by university students.

The two men are said to be close associates of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party of Mrs. Bandaranaike.

Education Minister Nissanka Wijeratne also spoke in parliament yesterday about the alleged plot by "disgruntled elements" to use school children as pawns to achieve their aims.

He said students were to be called out on strike yesterday as a protest against the government's decision to abolish the system of standardisation of marks for entry into the university.

He denied accusations that the abolition of the standardisation scheme would give an undue advantage to the minority Tamil community over the majority Sinhalese.

He assured parents that no injustice would be done to any students.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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